



NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE COUNTY
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1964



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TOWERS, Dr. A. K.
WILLIAMSON, Miss M. M., O.B.E.

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Alderman J. BROTHERTON (Chairman of the Finance Committee).

Standing Sub-Committees :

Finance and General Purposes.
Midwifery, Nursing and Child Care.
Mental Health.
Ambulance Services.
Family Care.
Area Health Sub-Committees (8).

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

County Medical Officer and Principal School Medical Officer	J. B. Tilley, M.D., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Deputy County Medical Officer ..	W. Minns, M.B.E., M.B., B.S., B.Hy., D.P.H.
Maternity and Child Welfare Medical Officer and Medical Supervisor of Midwives	Doris Story, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (Commenced 16/3/1964).
Senior School Medical Officer ..	J. M. H. Hopper, M.B., B.S., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H. (Resigned 22/2/1964). J. Deegan, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (Commenced 21/2/1964).
Area Executive Medical Officers—	
North 1 and 2 Areas	J. McCormack, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Central Area	Catherine B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
East Area	A. Donaldson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
South Area	Madge Hopper, M.B., B.S., B.Hy. D.P.H. (Retired 30/9/1964)
South East Area	A. W. Hay, M.B., B.S., D.P.H.
Wallsend Area	G. M. Cubie, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
West Area	J. M. McEwan, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Administrative Assistant	E. W. Woodcock
Assistant County Medical Officer and School Medical Officer	Isobel J. McLarty, M.B., Ch.B.
Assistant County Medical Officers (Maternity and Child Welfare) ..	Margaret Jordon, M.B., B.S. Anna M. Reid, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. Blanche Sykes, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. *Frances A. Potter, B.Sc., M.B., Ch.B.
School Medical Officers	W. W. Burnett, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H. Mary W. Dewell, M.B., B.S. F. W. Fordyce, M.B., B.S. N. D. Mackichan, B.A., M.B., B.Chir. Margaret H. McKeith, M.B., B.S. *Beatrice M. Noble, M.B., B.S. R. B. Smith, M.B., Ch.B. Pauline Taylerson, M.B., B.S. (Commenced 9/11/1964) Enid M. Young, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (Resigned 31/8/1964)
Chest Physicians*	J. M. Gilmore, M.D., D.P.H. G. Hurrell, M.D., B.Hy., D.P.H. (Retired June, 1964) J. R. Lauckner, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.P., F.R.F.P.S. (Commenced June 1964). A. R. Somner, M.D., F.R.C.P.E. C. Verity, M.D., D.P.H. F. L. Wollaston, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.
Principal School Dental Officer ..	A. E. Robinson, F.D.S.R.C.S.
Deputy Principal School Dental Officer	T. A. Ireland, L.D.S.

Staff of the Health Department—*continued.*

Orthodontist	..	..	..	G. W. Pettigrew, L.D.S., D.D.O.
Dental Officers	..	..	..	Norma S. Beeley, B.D.S. Patricia A. Brantingham, B.D.S. Brenda Britton, B.D.S. C. L. Carmichael, B.D.S. H. J. Coombes, L.D.S. Sheila M. Crute, B.D.S. Wilma S. Drury, L.D.S. R. S. Ferrell, L.D.S. R. M. Foulds, L.D.S. Helen C. Gent, B.D.S. W. Hedley, B.D.S. J. F. Horseman, L.D.S. Margaret I. Lamb, L.D.S. G. C. J. Long, B.D.S. Shirley E. Long, L.D.S. T. M. Mahadervan, L.D.S. W. P. Neilson, L.D.S. C. A. Nutt, L.D.S. Sheila D. Pritchard, B.D.S. W. Robson, L.D.S. S. J. Smithson, L.D.S. Freya M. Strong, B.D.S. E. G. Stuart, B.D.S. R. W. Whittingham, B.D.S. J. B. Wilson, B.D.S. (Commenced 1/9/1964).
Dental Auxiliary	..	..	..	Miss S. Weatherill (Commenced 14/9/1964).
Principal Nursing Officer	..	..	..	Ann A. Graham, O.B.E., S.R.N., H.V. Cert., F.R.S.H.
Deputy Principal Nursing Officer (Health Visiting)	..	..	..	Yvette Esme Buckoke, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Deputy Principal Nursing Officer (Midwifery and Nursing)	..	..	..	Mary Gilliland, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Assistant Principal Nursing Officer (Health Visiting)	..	..	..	Mary Atkinson, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert.
Health Visitors	..	..	..	93
Midwives	..	..	..	24
District Nurse/Midwives	..	..	..	59
District Nurses	..	..	..	37
Social Worker	..	..	..	Dorothy L. Dunn
Family Caseworkers	..	..	..	Christine A. Cox, Dip.S.S. (Keele). (Resigned 7/11/1964) J. K. Fletcher, Cert.S.S. (Liverpool). (Commenced 18/6/1964)
County Health Inspector	..	..	..	D. Lister, Cert.S.I.B., F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I.
Ambulance Officer	..	..	..	H. Wade
Station Officers	..	..	..	12
Ambulance Drivers	..	..	..	117
Senior Mental Welfare Officer	..	..	..	L. Armstrong

Staff of the Health Department—*continued.*

Mental Welfare Officers	..	..	S. Atkinson W. C. Elliott G. T. Harrison J. E. Kendall T. Pattie W. R. Pringle J. J. D. Richardson R. Tebble C. I. Vass
Welfare Assistant	..	..	Winifred Edgar (Commenced 3/2/1964)
Supervisors of Training Centres—			
Alnwick	..	..	G. Cummings
Ashington	..	..	Nancy E. Anderson
Bedlington	..	..	Margaret Fisher
Berwick	..	..	Alfreda M. Small
Hexham	..	..	Margaret Usher
Prudhoe	..	..	Margaret Tulip
Wallsend	..	..	G. Sanderson
Home Help Organisers	..	..	Mary J. W. Beal Doreen Grose Jean R. Mitchell Anne Taylor
Home Helps	..	..	895
Chiropodists	..	..	Jean M. Crammond, A.Ch.S. (Commenced 14/9/1964) Robert J. Falkous, L.Ch. (Commenced 1/5/1964) J. Flynn, L.Ch., H.Ch.D. *Mavis Jackson, M.Ch.S. (Resigned 31/5/1964) Sheila Mackay, M.Ch.S. *H. Sellars, M.Ch.S. (Resigned 29/4/1964) Jacqueline P. Watson, M.Ch.S.
Supervisor of Welfare of the Handi- capped	..	..	Eileen Metcalfe
Home Teachers of the Blind	..	..	Joan Duell Jane T. Hogarth Isobel M. Kay Hilary G. Loten Mary Marshall Margaret McGuire Joyce H. I. Thompson
Welfare Visitor for Physically Handi- capped	..	..	M. Winifred Patterson
Welfare Assistants	..	..	Joan C. Lamb Lillias Tuck
Handcraft Instructors	Maureen M. F. Bainbridge *N. Brown *Mavis A. Curry *Rachel Darling, M.A.O.T. Elizabeth Garbutt Sylvia A. Maw (Commenced 17/11/1964)

* Part-time.

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman,

This report continues the almost uninterrupted story of improvement in the health of the county which has been recorded annually over a period of seventy two years. Several new records were established in the mortality rates which serve as indices. The value of the eternal vigilance which is exercised today in the care of the expectant mother is shown by the lowest maternity mortality ever recorded in the county, the lowest still birth rate and the lowest perinatal mortality rate, while the success of the treatment and the prevention of tuberculosis is reflected in the lowest mortality rate and the smallest number of notified cases of the pulmonary form of the disease ever recorded.

Many factors are undoubtedly involved in the reduction in maternal mortality and the loss of child life which has been achieved in recent years. Better housing, better diet and better financial circumstances generally, must all have played a part but the greatest factor is the skill and care of the doctors, midwives and health visitors, and the greater availability of maternity beds. Over 83% of all confinements took place in hospital, and although this creates problems in the domiciliary midwifery field, it reduces the possibility of abnormal confinements occurring away from hospital facilities to very small proportions. Some of the increase in hospital confinement has been achieved by early discharge and experience so far has shown no ill effects from this arrangement. The close co-operation between the family doctor, the midwife and the health visitor which is enhanced by the attendance of the doctors at the Council's clinics, has been the subject of comment in previous reports ; it was well maintained during the year when a record number of 7,423 expectant mothers attended the antenatal clinics to be seen by their own doctors.

The success of the policy of providing first-class premises is shown by the record number of babies brought to child welfare sessions, but it also allows for extensions of all of the services. The chiropody service steadily expanded and the number of treatments increased by 33% compared with 1963. The opening of four new clinics during the year helped considerably with this expansion, and brought up to 25 the number of new clinics which have been provided in the last 10 years, 14 being purpose-built structures and the remainder extensive adaptations of existing premises.

Preventive medicine is continually extending its field, and the provision by the Regional Hospital Board of increased pathology facilities permitted the establishment of a scheme for cervical cytology for the prevention of cancer of the cervix uteri. Arrangements were made for smears to be taken from patients attending

the Department's family planning clinics and clinic premises were placed at the disposal of family doctors wishing to take smears from their own patients. During the year some 1,600 smears were taken, and the scheme has subsequently expanded. This is a most valuable measure and it is hoped that it will become widely used. The part played by the health visitors in arranging clinic sessions and in encouraging women to attend is worthy of special comment and appreciation.

The shortage of geriatric beds in the hospitals serving the north and central parts of the county places a considerable strain on the domiciliary services and on the accommodation in the Welfare Homes. The value of the home help service in this connection cannot be over-emphasised, for the work of the home help enables old people to remain at home much longer than would otherwise be possible. Because of the shortages of accommodation the service expanded rapidly at the beginning of the National Health Service, and it continues to increase, albeit more slowly. A record number of over 4,000 cases received help in the year and of these more than 3,500 were help for old people.

The effect of the Mental Health Act since 1959 has become clearer, and it is evident that the changes involve considerable increases in the work of the mental welfare officers. The number of their visits to the mentally ill increased by 600 to 3,659 in the year and have very nearly trebled since 1959. The appointment of a welfare assistant gave some help, and a further increase in staff has been approved. This increased volume of work only reflects the improved standards of community care which are being achieved by the close integration of the mental welfare officers with the work of the mental hospitals, and I would again express gratitude to Dr. D. Irwin at St. George's Hospital for his direction of this integration and his arrangements for the in-service training of the mental welfare officers. The work of the training centres expanded and increases in staff were necessary. Further expansion is expected when the new adult centre at Blyth becomes available, but the most important innovation in this year was the establishment at Wallsend of a special care unit for children unable to benefit by attendance at the training centre.

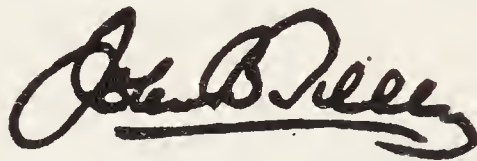
It is possible that the most significant item in this report is a small part of the section dealing with the health visiting service which refers to the attachment of health visitors to general medical practices. For too long the various parts of the National Health Service in the domiciliary field have remained separate in their working and the success of the pioneer work of attachment carried out by some authorities over the past five years warrants the adoption of this arrangement especially since the growth of group practice makes it easier to achieve. Only two health visitors were attached to two general practices during the year, but the immediate results were most satisfactory, and an extension has taken

place subsequently with the attachment both of health visitors and district nurses to a number of practices. While this is for the present on an experimental basis I expect that so much will be achieved that the arrangements can become the pattern for the future.

The presentation of this report gives me an opportunity to express my gratitude to the staff of the Health Department, who have energetically and loyally supported me. I am grateful to each and every one of them, and I thank you, Sir, and the members of the Health Committee for your advice and help throughout the year.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'John B. Riley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

County Medical Officer of Health.

COUNTY HALL,

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, I.

Telephone : Newcastle 28927.

REPORT OF THE COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1964.

VITAL STATISTICS

Population	494,440
Live Births—	
Number	8,306
Rate per 1,000 population	16.8
Illegitimate Live Births (per cent of total live births)	3.8
Still Births—	
Number	135
Rate per thousand total live and still births	15.9
Total live and still births	8,441
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	167
Infant mortality rates—	
Total infant deaths per 1,000 live births	20.1
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	19.5
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	34.7
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	14.9
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	12.7
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live and still births)	28.5
Maternal mortality (including abortion)—	
Number of deaths	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births	0.1

Population

The population of the county has increased by 50,000 in the last eleven years. In 1964 the increase was 3,240, natural increase accounting for 2,590 of this total.

BIRTHS

The number of live births was 8,306 which was less than the figure for 1963, though there were increases in seven of the urban and five of the rural districts. The birth rate fell to 16.8 per 1,000 population.

INFANT MORTALITY

The infant mortality rate was reduced to 20.1 per 1,000 live births. Only in 1961 has a better figure been recorded. The perinatal mortality fell and reached a rate of 28.5 which is a new low record. The still birth rate also fell to a new low record of 15.9 per 1,000 live and still births.

GENERAL DEATH RATE

There were 5,816 deaths which was less than in the previous year and the crude death rate was reduced to 11.76 per 1,000 population. After adjustment by the comparability factor this rate became 12.58.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF MORTALITY :

The total number of deaths from all causes was 5,816. The chief causes are shown in the following table :—

		Number of Deaths		
		1964	1963	1962
Heart Disease :—				
Coronary Disease Angina ..	1258	1270	1198	
Hypertension with Heart Disease	88	88	83	
Other	639	782	738	
	— 1985	— 2140	— 2019	
Malignant Neoplasm :—				
Stomach	150	138	135	
Lung, Bronchus	259	252	242	
Breast	90	86	88	
Uterus.. .. .	45	48	41	
Other	495	453	508	
	— 1039	— 977	— 1014	
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System		874	1007	1022
Bronchitis	311	308	326	
Pneumonia	252	281	204	
Motor Vehicle and other Accidents.. .. .	270	236	236	
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	237	255	259	
	4,968	5,204	5,080	

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The epidemics of measles and whooping cough recorded in 1963 died out in the Spring of the year and the total cases of whooping cough decreased from 326 to 129.

There was one case of poliomyelitis which occurred in a child of 5 years of age and which was of a non-paralytic type. He made a successful recovery and there was no spread of the disease.

For the fifth year running there was no case of diphtheria notified and there has been no death from diphtheria for 15 years.

The epidemic of typhoid fever which started in Aberdeen extended into Newburn Urban District at the end of May when an elderly couple who had been on holiday in Aberdeen were brought home in their son's car and then developed typhoid fever at home. The contacts were fortunately few and the usual precautions were taken. Both patients recovered completely and there was no spread of the disease.

There was no epidemic of food poisoning during the year and only 13 cases were notified in six county districts.

ROAD SAFETY

The annual report on road accidents has been received from Mr. Cooksley the Chief Constable and I quote the following facts.

Total road accidents recorded by the Police increased from 5,108 to 5,232. The graph shows the yearly rise in the number of accidents and fatal injuries since 1954

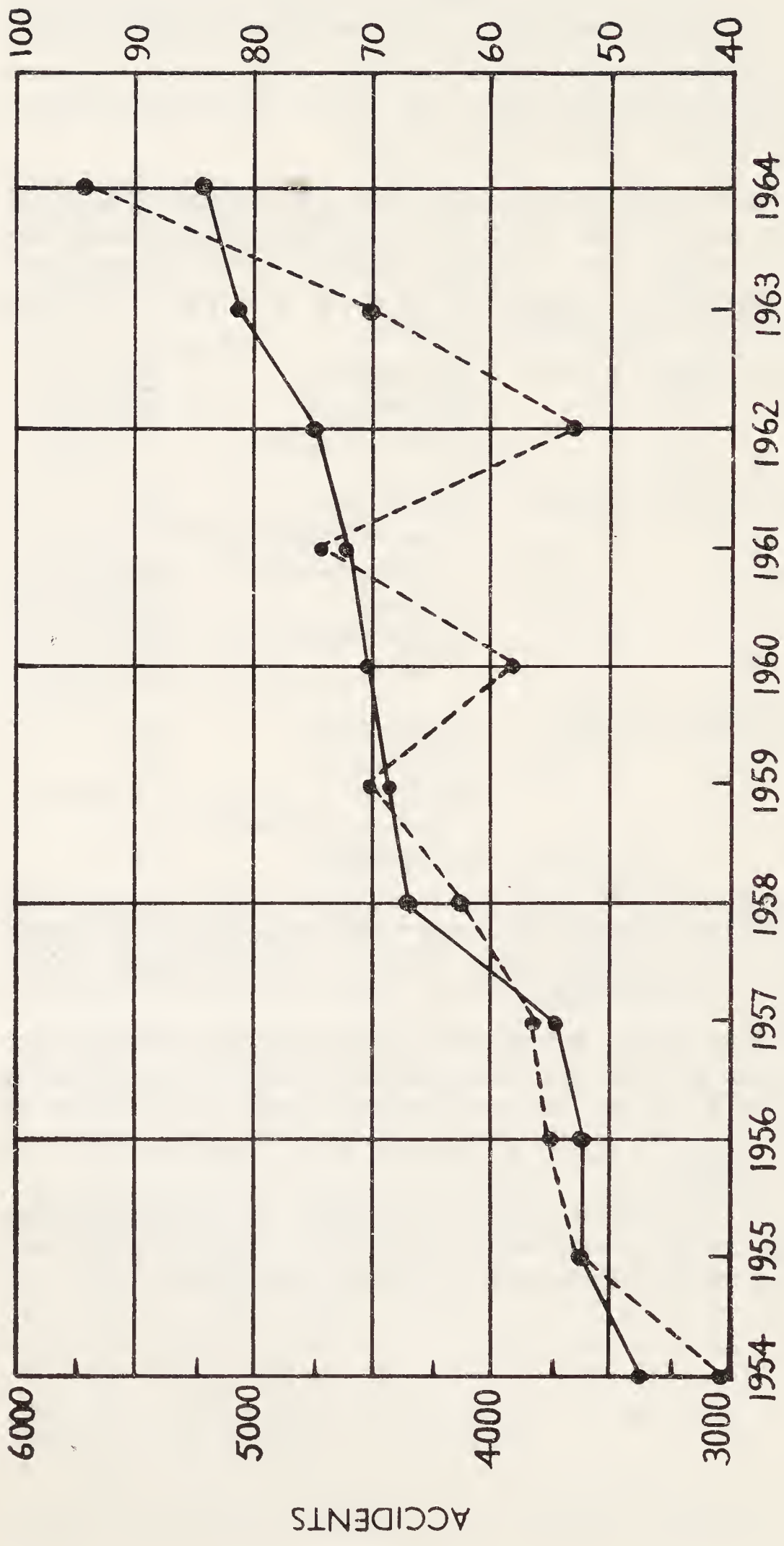
The increase in the number of persons killed from 53 in 1962 to 70 in 1963, and 94 this year, was a serious reflection on the standard of driving on the roads. In addition, 2,700 persons were injured and suffered pain and loss of work as a result. The 94 fatalities have been analysed as follows :—

(a) Children under 15 years	Passengers	5	} 10
	Pedestrians	4	
	Pedal Cyclists	1	
(b) Adults 15 to 60 years	Passengers	17	} 58
	Scooter and motor		
	cycle riders	15	
	Drivers	14	
	Pedestrians	11	
	Others	1	
(c) Adults over 60 years	Pedestrians	17	} 26
	Passengers	4	
	Drivers	3	
	Scooter and motor		
	cyclists	2	

The county districts with most fatalities were Castle Ward Rural District and Wallsend Borough with 11 deaths each. Amble Urban District, Glendale Rural District and Prudhoe Urban District had no fatal accidents.

The trunk road A.1 between the City boundary and Seaton Burn North had a total of 211 accidents in which 3 people died while the Coast Road in Wallsend Borough had 110 accidents of which 5 were fatal. As in the past these were the most dangerous roads in the county.

The report also gives details of the number of accidents during Bank Holiday periods and here there was a total of 5 persons killed and 159 injured during the 4 holiday weekends.



ROAD ACCIDENTS
FATAL INJURIES

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACTS

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

(Dr. D. Story)

Notification and Registration of Births

The live birth rate showed a slight fall from 17.1 to 16.8 per thousand population and the total births registered fell from 8,416 to 8,306. The birth rate for England and Wales was 18.4 compared with an adjusted rate for the county of 16.9 per thousand population.

Notified births numbered 8,411 and 6,971 of these, which is 82.9% took place in hospital or nursing home.

Still Births

The rate fell from 18.5 to 15.9 per thousand registered births. This was still slightly lower than the rate for the whole country which is 16.3. Of the 135 still births in the county 73 were premature.

Premature Births

The incidence of prematurity again showed a slight fall from 555 to 522 births. This is equivalent to 6.1% instead of 6.4% last year.

The number of neo-natal deaths in premature babies born in hospital was 57 out of a total of 391 such births. The following statistics are of interest :—

	1962	1963	1964
Premature births per cent of total births ..	6.7	6.4	6.1
Premature live births per cent of total live births	5.9	5.6	5.4
Premature neo-natal deaths per cent of total neo-natal deaths	49.3	57.0	47.5
Premature still births per cent of total still births	49.0	50.3	54.1
Premature babies survived 4 weeks per cent of total live premature births	86.0	85.4	86.9

Neo-Natal Deaths

The mortality of babies in the first four weeks of life increased slightly to a rate of 14.9 per thousand live births. In the five years 1955 to 1959 the rate varied from 19.0 to 17.47, and the figures for the last five years are as follows :—

1960	14.81	per 1,000 live births
1961	14.91	
1962	16.47	
1963	14.30	
1964	14.90	

It will be seen from the following table that of the 8,306 live births, 124 babies died before reaching the age of one month, compared with 121 last year :—

Prematurity	34
Congenital abnormalities.. .. .	16
Hyaline membrane disease	11
Congenital heart defect	10
Cerebral haemorrhage	9
Pneumonia	8
Atelectasis.. .. .	7
Asphyxia Neonatorum	4
Cerebral Anoxia	4
Haemolytic disease of the newborn	4
Congestive heart failure	3
Respiratory failure	2
Foetal Peritonitis.. .. .	2
Hyperkalaemia	2
Immaturity	2
Meningitis	1
Hypophosphatemia	1
Galactosaemia	1
Hirschsprungs disease	1
Meningomyocele	1
Gastro enteritis	1
	<hr/> 124 <hr/>

Prematurity was an associated cause in 23 of these deaths.

The early neo-natal mortality rate, i.e. death under one per week per thousand live births was 12.7, the same as last year.

Infant Deaths

There was a welcome fall in the infant mortality rate from 20.7 to 20.1 since the number of babies who died in their first year was 167 compared with 175 in 1963. The details are shown in the table below :—

	Boroughs and Urban Districts			Rural Districts			Total		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other Heart disease	1	1	2	1	—	1	2	1	3
Pneumonia.. .. .	3	4	7	1	2	3	4	6	10
Bronchitis	2	1	3	—	—	—	2	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	2	1	3	2	—	2	4	1	5
Congenital Malformations	15	17	32	4	5	9	19	22	41
Other defined and Ill-defined	63	25	88	7	6	13	70	31	101
diseases	63	25	88	7	6	13	70	31	101
All other accidents	3	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	3
TOTALS	89	50	139	15	13	28	104	63	167

Illegitimate Births

The total of 8,441 live and still births included 330 which were illegitimate and of these 13 were still born. Illegitimate births represented 3.9% of all births compared with 4.0% last year and 3.6% in 1962.

Perinatal Mortality

The perinatal mortality rate is the sum of the early neo-natal deaths plus still births per thousand total births.

There were 106 early neo-natal deaths and 135 still births and the resultant perinatal mortality rate is 28.5 compared with 31.0 last year.

The rates in Northumberland over the last five years, compared with the national rate, were as follows :—

Year	Northumberland	England & Wales
1960	30.3	32.9
1961	32.4	32.2
1962	32.0	30.8
1963	31.0	29.3
1964	28.5	28.2

Maternal Mortality

There was one maternal death, which represents a rate of 0.12 per thousand total births compared with the figure for the whole country of 0.25.

The death took place in hospital and the cause was as follows :—

- 1(a) Obstructive Labour
- (b) Caesarian Section

VITAL STATISTICS.
Rates for Northumberland compared with England and Wales.

Year	Still Births		Neo Natal Mortality		Early Neo Natal Mortality		Perinatal Mortality		Infant Mortality		Maternal Mortality	
	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.	County	E. & W.
1960	17.9	19.8	14.8	15.6	12.5	13.3	30.3	32.9	20.2	21.9	0.60	0.39
1961	20.3	19.1	14.9	15.5	12.4	13.4	32.4	32.2	19.7	21.6	0.49	0.33
1962	19.3	18.1	16.4	15.1	13.0	15.0	32.1	30.8	23.2	21.6	0.23	0.35
1963	18.5	17.3	14.3	14.2	12.7	14.2	31.0	29.3	20.7	20.9	0.23	0.28
1964	15.9	16.3	14.9	13.8	12.7	12.1	28.5	28.2	20.1	20.0	0.12	0.25

Child Welfare Clinics

While the health of children in the county continues to improve, the numbers of children attending clinics still rises.

This year 1,000 more children attended clinics in the county than in 1963, and there was an increase of 10,000 in individual attendances.

Year.	No. of Clinics.	No. of half-day sessions held.	Total No. of children attending.	Total attendances.
1960	94	5,831	27,612	148,246
1961	93	5,817	28,240	147,923
1962	91	5,970	28,985	155,052
1963	93	5,978	30,886	151,297
1964	94	6,120	31,910	161,024

Year of Attendance	Number of children who attended born in the years 1959/64 in age groups		
	Under 1 year	1 — 2 years	2 — 5 years
1963	7,429	7,736	15,721
1964	Born in Years :—		
	1964	1963	1959/62
	7,734	7,606	16,570

During the year new clinics were opened at Widdrington, Ponteland, Woodlands Park and Willington Quay. These new premises undoubtedly lead to an improvement of the services and play a part in the all round increased attendances.

With the improvement in general health of children and standards of care the work of the clinics has now been directed more to screening techniques for early detection of abnormality and to the care of children who may be prone to developmental abnormality owing to conditions of their birth.

The accent has been on the earliest possible discovery of defects in order that treatment may be most effective.

OBSERVATION REGISTER

Arrangements have been made for notification on the back of the birth notification card of any condition which might be detrimental to the normal development of the child. These children are kept under observation and a register is kept in each clinic of such children in the area.

The developmental progress of the child is followed by the doctor at the clinic and any defect found is noted and treatment is instituted if required.

During the year 1,724 children were put on the register, this being 20.8% of children born during the year. 135 of these children were found to have a defect.

CONSULTANT CLINICS

Ophthalmic and orthopaedic sessions for school children have been held in clinic premises and pre-school children who are referred from child welfare clinics attend.

<i>Ophthalmic</i> —	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960
Number of Pre-School Children examined ..	1,325	1,387	1,205	1,136	1,107
Number of Spectacles prescribed	236	247	208	240	211
<i>Orthopaedic</i> —					
Number of new cases who attended	949	856	702	698	740
Number of old cases who attended.. ..	1,107	1,519	949	916	859

Speech therapy is also included in the consultant facilities available and this was arranged with the school health service. 113 pre-school children were treated compared with 95 in the previous year.

CONGENITAL ABNORMALITIES

In January, 1963, a letter was received from the Ministry of Health asking local authorities to participate in a scheme for the notification of congenital malformations observable at birth.

The scheme involved the submission of a standard form to the General Register Office in the case of each child found to suffer from congenital malformation.

Provision was made for the recording of congenital malformations observed at birth on the birth notification card. These children have all been included in the observation register.

The scheme was brought into operation in January 1963, and has the full co-operation of the hospitals in the area.

During the year 108 congenital defects were notified.

DISTRIBUTION OF WELFARE FOODS

Welfare foods are on sale at 99 distribution points and in addition a postal service is operated from the food store in Gosforth for outlying districts.

Year	National Dried Milk	Cod Liver Oil	Vitamin A. & D. Tablets	Orange Juice
	Tins	Bottles	Packets	Bottles
1960	140,663	32,192	24,884	272,899
1961	114,617	22,318	18,200	161,478
1962	107,402	11,492	11,372	101,362
1963	102,136	11,467	11,209	121,802
1964	85,922	10,554	10,645	128,632

Ante-Natal Clinics

The ante-natal clinics throughout the county are carried out by general practitioners who see patients in local authority clinics where they work in co-operation with the midwife and health visitor. The number of patients attending again showed an increase.

Year.	No. of Expectant Mothers Attending.	Total No. of Attendances.
1960	6,559	27,496
1961	7,018	30,991
1962	7,134	32,497
1963	7,260	35,226
1964	7,423	37,883

Relaxation classes for expectant mothers were run by midwives or physiotherapists in 27 clinics. 1,256 sessions were attended by 10,858 expectant mothers.

Clinic	Attendances		No. of Half day Sessions
	1st Visits	Re-Visits	
Alnwick	29	212	48
Ashington*	44	306	51
Bedlington Station	41	190	42
Blyth	125	976	86
Brunton Park*†	4	19	9
Cramlington	46	180	47
Gosforth	129	946	89
Guide Post	32	239	50
Haltwhistle*	46	201	30
Hexham	52	282	41
Longbenton	43	277	49
Lynemouth*	12	60	41
Monkseaton Village	105	719	45
Morpeth	70	445	47
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea*	29	226	48
Ponteland	51	482	48
Prudhoe*	51	186	48
Seaton Burn *†	5	38	5
Seaton Delaval	33	220	43
South Broomhill*	18	127	38
Throckley	31	368	47
Tweedmouth	53	335	50
Wallsend	148	747	89
Westerhope†	11	48	24
Whitley Bay	108	692	44
Willington Quay	94	532	52
Woodlands Park†	57	338	45
TOTALS	1,467	9,391	1,256

* These clinics are supervised by health visitors and midwives.

† Brunton Park ceased to operate from March 10th, 1964.

Seaton Burn ceased to operate from January 31st, 1964.

† Westerhope commenced to operate from June 2nd, 1964.

Woodlands commenced to operate from February 6th, 1964.

2,777 mothers attended for post-natal examination.

WOMEN'S ADVISORY CLINICS

The work of the three women's advisory clinics continued to show an increase.

Clinics	Attendances		No. of Half Day Sessions
	1st Visits	Re-Visits	
Alnwick	35	108	25
Hexham	104	390	49
Monkseaton	150	89	43

In addition the Family Planning Association held sessions in local authority clinics in Tweedmouth, Blyth and Ashington. The Council made grants to the Association.

CERVICAL SMEARS

During the year clinics have been opened throughout the county to take cervical smears for the early detection of carcinoma of the cervix.

In September my staff commenced taking smears at the three Women's Advisory Clinics. Details are given below.

Clinic	No. of smears taken
Alnwick	45
Hexham	11
Monkseaton	92

Encouragement was given to general practitioners to hold clinics for this purpose, either in local authority clinics or in their own surgeries. The following numbers were carried out :

Clinic	No. of smears taken	Date commenced
Amble	41	October
Bedlington*	176	April
Guide Post	277	April
Bedlington Station	369	April
Blyth*	4	December
South Broomhill	241	August
Throckley	7	November
Wallsend	72	November
Willington Quay	7	November
Woodlands Park	256	April

* General Practitioner's Surgery

Bowmer Bank Hostel

54 expectant mothers were admitted to Bowmer Bank Hostel during the year. Valuable work has been carried out at the Hostel as it offers shelter to expectant mothers who have nowhere to go during their pregnancy. While in Bowmer Bank they have good living conditions and adequate ante-natal care. They are also accommodated with the baby after delivery and are able to stay until the baby is adopted. If they wish to keep the baby this is an excellent opportunity to teach them mothercraft and to inculcate reasonable standards of care for the baby. The average length of stay of these mothers is $8\frac{1}{2}$ weeks before delivery and 7 weeks afterwards.

14 mothers were discharged home with their babies and 21 babies went out for adoption.

DENTAL SERVICE

(Mr. A. E. Robinson, F.D.S., R.C.S.)

As in previous years, Dental treatment was provided for Expectant and Nursing Mothers and children under the age of five years by the school dental officers at dental clinics in the following areas :—

<i>Area</i>	<i>Dental Officer.</i>
1. Alnwick.. ..	Miss S. M. Crute, B.D.S.
2. Amble	Mr. C. A. Nutt, L.D.S.
3. Ashington	Mr. R. S. Ferrell, L.D.S.
4. Bedlington	Mr. W. Hedley, B.D.S.
5. Blyth	Mr. E. G. Stuart, B.D.S.
6. Cramlington	Mr. T. M. Mahadervan, L.D.S.
7. Dudley	Mr. W. Robson, L.D.S.
8. Forest Hall	Mr. G. C. J. Long, B.D.S.
9. Glendale	Mr. R. W. Whittingham, B.D.S.
10. Gosforth	Miss M. I. Lamb, L.D.S.
11. Guide Post	Mr. R. M. Foulds, L.D.S.
12. Haltwhistle	Mr. J. B. Wilson, B.D.S.
13. Hexham	Miss H. C. Gent, B.D.S.
14. Longbenton	Mrs. P. A. Brantingham, B.D.S.
15. Low Willington	Mrs. B. Britton, B.D.S.
16. Morpeth	Mr. S. J. Smithson, L.D.S.
17. Newbiggin	Mr. C. L. Carmichael, B.D.S.
18. Newburn	Miss S. D. Pritchard, B.D.S.
19. North Tyne	Mr. T. A. Ireland, L.D.S.
20. Ponteland	Mr. G. C. J. Long, B.D.S.
21. Prudhoe	Miss S. E. Long, L.D.S.
22. Seaton Delaval	Mr. A. E. Robinson, F.D.S., R.C.S.
23. Shiremoor	Mrs. W. S. Drury, L.D.S.
24. Throckley	Mrs. F. M. Strong, B.D.S.
25. Tweedmouth	{ Mr. W. P. Neilson, L.D.S.
	{ Mr. C. A. Nutt, L.D.S.
26. Wallsend	Mr. J. P. Horseman, L.D.S.
27. Whitley Bay	Mrs. W. S. Drury, L.D.S.
28. Woodlands Park	Mr. W. Robson, L.D.S.

A further small decline in the number of mothers examined in the County dental clinics took place during 1964, but there was another welcome increase in the number of children under 5 years of age who attended for Dental Examination to counterbalance this, as reference to the following table will show :—

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Mothers ..	1447	1358	1597	1221	1235	1129
Children ..	1641	1848	2421	2489	2399	3252

In districts well catered for by private dental practitioners, mothers appear to find it more convenient to continue with their own family dentist since continuity of service is assured. Most of the ante- and post-natal care of patients is carried out by the

family doctors, thus replacing the local authority medical officers. This may be another reason for the fall off in the number of mothers who are referred for inspection to the dental clinics.

In the case of the pre-school child, these are seen by the local authority medical officers at the birthday clinics, and are referred by them to the dental clinics for inspection. It is always a matter of concern if the first dental experience of a pre-school child is that of extraction for the relief of pain. These early inspections after the birthday clinics do much to cut down these experiences, and are being encouraged wherever possible.

Small children naturally find it difficult to understand the rules of dental hygiene on their own, but it has been found that where talks and films have been given at night to young mothers' organisations, very receptive and interested audiences have been present, who appeared most grateful for the instruction on the care of their children's teeth which they receive. Whilst the staff can do much with posters and literature in improving dental health of young children, the most important persons in early life, are the parents and relatives and by instructing them in the simple rules of dental health one looks for a continued improvement in this field in the future.

An innovation in September, 1964, was the appointment of a Dental Auxiliary in Willington Quay, who works in the same clinic under the supervision of the dental officer for that area. Her duties are both clinical and instructive in matters of dental health, and her novel methods of approach to the pre-school child seem to have made quite an impression in the area, but it is too early yet to give a true assessment of the value of this work.

TREATMENT

Whilst the number of mothers treated fell, the amount of conservative treatment showed a further increase, and the number of extractions fell :—

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Extractions	4833	3499	3644	2780	1943	1565
Fillings ..	1808	1730	1558	1690	1962	2038
Dentures ..	909	1001	906	717	666	568

Following this increase in the conservation of the teeth, there is a consequent decrease in the number of dentures supplied. This is reflected in the type of young patients treated who are now happily more interested in saving their natural teeth than having them extracted and replaced with artificial dentures.

As the number of pre-school children inspected increased, so the number treated showed an increase. The number of extractions showed a decrease of 167, and the fillings an increase of 266.

Pre-Schoolchildren

	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Treated ..	1140	1288	1636	1677	1739	2208
Extractions	2148	1886	2267	2408	2545	2378
Fillings ..	859	836	878	942	1144	1410

Three new dental clinics were opened during the year at Woodlands Park, Willington Quay and Ponteland. All of these clinics are fitted with the most up-to-date equipment. The amenities of all of these clinics are greatly appreciated by the mothers and young children and by the dental staff in the areas.

PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE

HEALTH VISITING

During the year the establishment of health visitors was increased from 100 to 102. This was necessitated by the greater volume of work which has resulted from new developments in health visiting and from an extension of existing duties. In Northumberland there is now one health visitor per 4,816 of the population. Although still higher than the proportion of 1 per 4,300, recommended by the Working Party on The Field of Work, Training and Recruitment of Health Visitors, it compares very favourably with the general situation in the country. Recruitment has been successful and the staffing position has remained satisfactory. Three health visitors retired during the year, one of them for health reasons ; three resigned their appointments, one to take up an appointment with the World Health Organisation in Algiers and two for domestic reasons. Eight health visitors were appointed, four of them, newly qualified under the Council's Grant Aided Scheme. Four students commenced training during the year, three in Newcastle upon Tyne and one in London.

Over the past few years increasing emphasis has been laid on the need for effective co-operation between general practitioners and those working in the preventive health services. In Northumberland, the attendance by family doctors at local authority clinics has greatly facilitated the establishment of good relationships between them and health visitors and has provided a regular opportunity for the exchange of information and for discussion of problems of mutual interest. In addition, health visitors have attended ante-natal and child welfare sessions held in general practitioners' surgeries and have paid other informal visits in order to discuss specific cases. The increase in the number of cases referred by doctors to health visitors reflects a growing awareness of the value, to the individual and to the family, of this co-operation and co-ordination of effort.

In the latter part of the year a number of enquiries were received from general practitioners concerning the attachment of health visitors to their practices and two such schemes were initiated for an experimental period — one in the Whitley Bay area and one in Broomhill. The health visitors concerned continued to work from clinic premises but paid regular visits to the surgeries for consultation with the doctors. They undertake the full range of health visiting duties but their case loads are based entirely upon practice patients. Although insufficient time has elapsed for a detailed assessment to be made of these experiments the health visitors and doctors concerned had all expressed great satisfaction with the progress of the schemes. Not only has the closer liaison resulted in a more effective service for the patients concerned but, in addition, problems referred by the doctors cover a wider range than was the case previously.

This experience suggests that there exists a sizeable reservoir of patients in need who previously have been unknown to the health visitors. The attachment of health visitors to general practice may therefore prove to be the most effective means of developing their potential contribution in the field of medico-social work.

The early detection of abnormalities in children, whether physical, mental or emotional, is of especial concern to health visitors and an increasing amount of time is spent in this aspect of their work. It is of interest to note that the carrying out of two tests for phenylketonuria in the first six weeks of life involved over 16,000 tests during the year. A diagnosis of phenylketonuria was made in the case of one infant before discharge from the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital. The child is now under regular supervision by the Department of Child Health, Royal Victoria Infirmary and is making excellent progress. Phenylketonuria is known to be familial and the condition had been diagnosed with a previous child born to this family. In order to ensure a speedy diagnosis arrangements were made for the mother to be delivered at the Princess Mary Maternity Hospital.

A positive reaction to this test was obtained in the case of one other infant, but after full investigation in hospital, the provisional diagnosis of phenylketonuria was disproved.

Tests for the detection of deafness were carried out on over 9,000 children including all those in the 7—9 months age group and all the two year olds in groups 'at risk.' Repeat tests were carried out on all infants who failed the initial test and children who failed this second test were referred for further investigation.

A proportion of these tests and those for phenylketonuria are carried out in the clinics but frequently home visits have to be paid, particularly in the rural areas. The amount of time involved can be considerable. In addition, the test for the detection of deafness requires two people trained in this technique.

Smear tests for cervical cytology for the early detection of cervical carcinoma were introduced during the year and are now undertaken at the Women's Advisory Clinics in Alnwick, Hexham and Monkseaton as well as by general practitioners in 14 clinics in other areas. The health visitors were concerned with the staffing arrangements and the planning of these clinic sessions but their main work in this field was in the education of women in the vulnerable age groups on the importance of these tests.

TODDLERS CLASSES

Four new Toddlers Classes were commenced during the year, bringing the total to nine. These classes, which are held weekly, have been staffed entirely by voluntary helpers ; the health visitors acting in an advisory capacity and selecting those children

who would benefit most by attendance. The classes, in most cases, are open to children from 3 to 5 years but in some the demand for places is so far in excess of the number available that attendance has had to be limited to children in their 4th year. This new venture has been of great value to the children who look forward tremendously to their day "at school." Head teachers of infants schools have commented on the benefit which the children have derived from the experience as the opportunities afforded to take part in group activities and constructive play have greatly facilitated later adjustment to full time schooling. Staff of teacher training colleges have also shown an interest in the toddler classes. In one area the classes have been run by student teachers under the guidance of their tutors and the equipment has been provided by the training college. In a second area, 2-3 students attend each class as observers. The experience afforded for these students to have contact with children in the pre-school age group is of great value to them in their training.

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health visitors have continued to be active in the field of health education. In addition to classes for expectant mothers which are now held regularly in all county owned clinics, classes have also been held in two areas for expectant fathers. Requests for these have come from the fathers themselves and appear to fill a real need. Both organised and informal discussion groups on child care and development have been held in a number of clinics. This teaching has always been an essential part of the health visitors' work in homes and in clinics but, for the greater part, it has been carried out with individual mothers. The need for individual teaching for mothers with particular problems will always exist but there can be little doubt that group education has enabled a larger number to be reached and provided a more effective educational medium.

Mothers' Clubs provide the ideal situation for group education and it is of interest to note that an increasing number of club meetings was devoted to discussion of a particular subject.

Talks have been given to various organisations and groups on subjects relating to health and welfare, for example, Young Wives' Clubs, Women's Institutes and Townswomen's Guilds, Rotary Clubs and Over 60 Clubs. Requests for talks have also been received from Youth Clubs and instruction has been given in First Aid, Home Nursing and Mothercraft. Several health visitors have assisted in the education of young people studying for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

CARE OF THE AGED

Responsibility for the supervision and the visiting of aged persons continued to be shared by the health visitors and district

nurses and the growing number of old people in the community has inevitably brought about increased emphasis on this aspect of their work. Many old people have been referred by their doctors for follow-up by health visitors and there is every reason to believe that attachment of public health nurses to general practitioners will lead to a greater awareness of the extent of the problems with this age group.

A number of health visitors served in a voluntary capacity on local Old People's Voluntary Welfare Committees. The work of these Committees and the contribution which they make in arranging friendly visiting services, old people's clubs, luncheon clubs and Meals on Wheels cannot be over-estimated.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE

The work of the health visitor in schools, during 1964, was increasingly concerned with the social and mental aspects of children's health and with health education and preparation for family life and her function as the medico-social worker in schools was increasingly appreciated by teaching staffs. Health visitors have maintained regular contact with them and the children in order to detect defects and ascertain difficulties and problems which might be related to the home environment.

Health visitors continued to attend at School Medical Inspections for consultation with School Medical Officers but much of the routine work in schools was carried out by health visitor assistants who have continued to make a valuable contribution to this service.

Mothercraft, First Aid and Home Nursing continue to be taught in many schools and it is of interest to note that there has been an increase in the number of requests received from head teachers for talks on the health services and general health topics. In a number of cases these classes were held in clinics. These visits are regarded as valuable preparation in enabling the children to become familiar with services which they themselves will use.

One health visitor continued to give courses of instruction at an approved school for girls and two have given lectures to pre-nursing students and cadet nurses. Two senior health visitors have given courses of lectures on personal and communal health and social studies at the South-East Northumberland Technical College and the Northumberland County Technical College and, at the latter, students made full use of the advisory facilities offered them by the senior health visitor on their personal problems.

STUDENT EDUCATION AND VISITORS TO THE COUNTY

As in previous years lectures were given by the Principal Nursing Officer to student health visitors at the Newcastle upon Tyne Health Visitor Training School on the administration of health visiting in the county and all the students came to North-

umberland for two weeks practical experience. One student from the Battersea College of Technology received the whole of her practical training in the county.

First year students from the Hexham General Hospital paid visits of observation to clinics and those in their final year spent $1\frac{1}{2}$ days in the county in order to observe the work of health visitors, district nurses and midwives. Arrangements were also made for student nurses from Northgate and District Hospital to observe the work of a clinic and pay selected visits with health visitors.

Visits of observation to the Longbenton Clinic were arranged for student teachers from the Northern Counties College and talks were given on mothercraft and the health visiting service by the health visitors in the area. Student teachers from the Northumberland College visited the Ponteland clinic to have informal discussions with the health visitors. One student, taking the Administrative Course at the Royal College of Nursing, spent two weeks in the Health Department and a doctor from Thailand spent one day observing the work of health visitors in rural areas. Five students taking the Certificate Course in Social Work at the Municipal College of Commerce came for seven days to observe the County Health and Welfare Services and, during this time, in addition to visits with health visitors and district nurses, attended clinic sessions, mothercraft and toddler classes.

POST GRADUATE COURSES AND IN-SERVICE EDUCATION

During the year, eleven health visitors attended Refresher Courses arranged by the Health Visitors' Association and the Central Council for Health Education and two attended the Annual Congress of the Royal Society of Health. Residential refresher courses are of undoubted value in helping staff keep abreast with new ideas and methods and the opportunity which is afforded to meet and talk with colleagues from other parts of the country and other disciplines is greatly appreciated.

Staff conferences for senior health visitors and health visitors were held, one at Merley Croft, Morpeth. Ministry circulars, new projects in the county and other matters of current interest were discussed.

Ten health visitors attended a further course on The Principles and Practice of Teaching at the Northumberland Technical College. The courses, consisting of nine sessions of lectures and demonstration classes, were planned to meet the special needs of health visitors who are increasingly being called upon to undertake teaching and lecturing and to lead discussion groups in schools, clinics and to various outside organisations.

Nine health visitors attended a course on "Screening Tests" for the early detection of deafness arranged by Durham County Council in conjunction with the Department of Audiology and Education of the Deaf, University of Manchester.

Other groups of staff participated in a study day on Radiation and its Effects, organised by the Regional Hospital Board in conjunction with the Royal College of Nursing, a study day on Diabetes arranged by the Newcastle upon Tyne Health Department and one for nursing staff at the Ashington Hospital. Twenty health visitors attended a two-day refresher course at St. George's Hospital, Morpeth. We were especially grateful to those who planned this refresher course for including lectures which were of especial interest to public health nurses. The knowledge and understanding gained was of great value to them in their work in the community and the opportunity to establish contact with the staff of the hospital was much appreciated.

Midwifery and Home Nursing Service

It has become customary to report a satisfactory staff situation each year and 1964 was no exception.

Twelve appointments were made.

These included 7 midwives and 2 additional male nurses.

MIDWIFERY

The trend toward hospital confinement gathered further impetus during the year and many more mothers requested or had to accept a 48 hour discharge. There were 1424 home confinements and 5,130 hospital discharges. Of the hospital discharges 827 were sent home within 48 hours and there appeared to be very few incidents following these early discharges ; complications were few and of a minor nature and the referral system in operation worked reasonably well. Planned and selected early discharges are obviously best and are most appreciated by the midwife, family doctor and families concerned.

The three Maternity Liaison Committees met at regular intervals and it was felt made a definite contribution to the co-ordination of the County Maternity Service.

PART II MIDWIFERY TRAINING

Seven pupil midwives were accepted from Dilston Hall Maternity Hospital.

Four completed their training before the end of the year and 3 passed the Central Midwives Board examination.

REFRESHER COURSES

Eighteen midwives attended approved courses. Two midwives were given the opportunity of a five days residential course at the Maternity Unit, Newcastle General Hospital. This was approved by the Central Midwives Board and designed to meet the needs of the domiciliary midwife.

The programme included time spent in each department of the unit, attendance at clinical teaching rounds and lectures and observation of various obstetrical manoeuvres etc. The midwives were very enthusiastic about seeing new methods and advances put into practice and expressed great appreciation of the friendly co-operation of the hospital team.

HOME NURSING

No major change has taken place in the home nursing service. There has been a slight increase in the number of cases and a corresponding rise in visits. In keeping with previous years the majority of the district nurses' work was amongst the elderly sick and infirm and in addition to nursing care much time was given to supportive care and advice.

Disposable equipment such as incontinence pads, pre-sterilised syringes, catheters, masks and gloves are now regarded as standard equipment and are in universal use. Pre-sterilised dressing packs have been introduced for emergency use. Undoubtedly all this equipment has improved and simplified the district nursing practice and we hope, provided a better service to patients.

Good co-operation with the hospitals has been maintained, particularly in the care of geriatric patients and the provision of hospital accommodation for holiday periods.

The Day and Night Nursing Service provided through the Marie Curie Foundation for cancer patients has now been in existence for four years and has proved beyond doubt to be invaluable in the care of patients being nursed at home. There were approximately 37 nurses on the register during the year, although all were not required. 39 patients received night nursing care for varying periods and the support and assistance given was greatly appreciated by patients and relatives. Many families also received assistance from the Marie Curie Foundation Welfare Fund in the form of extra nourishment and clothing.

The Chest and Heart Association made it known during the year that assistance on a limited scale would be available to patients suffering from chest and heart diseases and several grants were made to patients living in the county ; these were greatly appreciated by the families, all of whom were found to be in need.

Voluntary organisations and committees continued to make a valuable contribution to the work of the district nurse. A night sitting service has been organised by a voluntary committee in one area which is meeting a great need amongst the elderly infirm. A small charge is made for the service to those who can afford to pay, but to many the service is given free.

IN SERVICE EDUCATION

Groups of nurses and midwives attended study days arranged by St. Georges Hospital, Newcastle General Hospital, Ashington

Hospital and Newcastle Health Department. We were extremely grateful for the opportunity for Northumberland staff to attend.

DISTRICT NURSE TRAINING

Seven district nurses completed the training course in Newcastle during the year and all were awarded the National Certificate on successfully passing the examination. 22 district nurses have taken this course since the scheme began in 1962.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

DIPHTHERIA, WHOOPING COUGH AND TETANUS

The improvement in the protection rate against these three diseases shown in last year's annual report was not maintained and the total number of children who completed a course of immunisation fell from 8,813 to 6,955. This fall was mostly in babies in their first year of life and a greater effort will have to be made next year to bring the protection rate of babies born in 1964 to a safe level. The tables on pages 92 and 93 give details by Areas and show that almost all the children now immunised received the triple antigen against all three diseases.

SMALLPOX

There was no case of smallpox in the county. There was no scare of the disease in any other part of the country and, as a result, the number of persons vaccinated against the disease was low. Mothers are advised to have their babies vaccinated after the first birthday and from the table below it will be seen that 1,222 babies were vaccinated at this age during the year.

SUB-COMMITTEE AREA	Age at date of Vaccination																	
	Number Vaccinated during 1964									Number Re-Vaccinated during 1964								
	0 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	1 year	2 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 yrs or over	Total	0 - 3 months	3 - 6 months	6 - 9 months	9 - 12 months	1 year	2 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 yrs or over	Total
North No. 1	28	14	2	5	93	38	8	—	188	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	—	7
North No. 2	10	17	3	11	71	61	6	4	183	—	—	—	—	—	4	15	1	20
Central ...	3	2	10	18	127	30	24	63	277	—	—	—	—	—	7	28	138	173
East... ..	1	—	3	—	105	80	42	46	277	—	—	—	—	1	8	12	53	74
South ...	20	119	20	28	217	31	23	62	520	—	—	—	—	1	4	15	77	97
South East...	19	35	22	161	269	47	40	87	680	—	1	—	2	6	12	43	208	272
West ...	11	26	11	11	89	29	44	38	259	—	—	—	—	—	1	10	64	75
Wallsend ...	3	3	3	64	251	36	4	5	369	—	—	—	—	—	4	15	23	42
1964 Totals...	95	216	74	298	1222	352	191	305	2753	—	1	—	2	8	44	141	564	760
1963 Totals...	201	368	112	108	273	125	114	298	1599	—	2	—	1	5	40	173	905	1126

POLIOMYELITIS

All babies are now offered vaccination with the oral type of vaccine and the staff at the clinics have achieved great success with this simple method of protection against poliomyelitis. Nearly 10,000 children received a third dose of vaccine and were therefore protected against the disease and, in addition, over 9½ thousand other children received reinforcing doses.

The table below gives details of the work carried out in each Area.

ORAL VACCINE	Central	East	South	South East	Wall-send	West	North	Total
3rd dose ...	1,406	1,315	2,028	2,530	1,040	558	1,040	9,917
Reinforcing dose after :— 2 Salk doses ...	6	—	129	—	—	15	9	159
3 Salk doses ...	682	751	—	—	343	—	1,154	2,930
3 Oral doses ...	348	14	880	1,360	—	248	125	2,975
2 Salk plus 2 Oral doses ...	623	—	821	1,287	318	361	53	3,463
2 Salk plus 1 Oral dose... ...	210	—	—	—	—	—	—	210
TOTAL ...	1,869	765	1,830	2,647	661	624	1,341	9,737

AMBULANCE SERVICE

There was a further increase in the ambulance service operational staff of six driver attendants to be employed as day workers at main stations and to give relief cover at stations for sickness, holidays or lieu days. The total number of driver attendants is now 117, with an establishment total of 143.

The County Ambulance Workshops continued to give a very satisfactory service, but the increase in vehicle mileages and the problems of road traffic congestion have increased the amount of preventive maintenance undertaken and, in some cases, major overhauls of vehicles have had to be advanced. The chargehand mechanic and his staff of four have given an excellent service.

The re-organised radio service introduced in June 1963 was further improved by the equipping of Ashington, Throckley, Whitley Bay and Wallsend Stations with monitor receivers on mobile frequency. This enables the station officers in these areas to gain maximum value of vehicles passing through or conveying patients to treatment centres in their areas.

The Wideopen Ambulance Station building programme for improved staff accommodation was completed at the end of June. This allowed the resiting of the central control with improved working conditions and facilities.

Further improvements were made in the inter-station and control co-ordination, so as to give more consideration to patients and vehicle usage.

The vehicle replacement programme for the year was six vehicles — three large ambulances, two small dual purpose vehicles and one Vauxhall estate car conversion. The estate car conversion was tried out at Wideopen and Berwick Stations and, due to the suitability of the vehicle, consideration is now being given to increasing the number held in the future.

In the National Safe Driving Competition for 1963 the following 80 safe driving awards, out of a total of 95 staff entered, were gained by personnel :—

Bar to 15 year Brooch	..	..	..	4
15 Consecutive Year Brooch	..	..	..	1
11—14 years Oak Leaf Bar	..	..	..	10
10 year Medal	..	..	..	3
6—9 year Bars	..	..	..	33
5 year Medal	..	..	..	5
Diplomas	..	..	..	24

The following figures extracted from the tables 19 and 20 show that more patients were carried by ambulances, and the miles per patient ratio increased from 7.8 to 7.9. This was due, in the main, to giving a better service to patients living close to the main treatment centres.

	1962	1963	1964
Journeys ..	53,438	55,294	54,763
Patients ..	194,996	205,989	210,679
Mileage.. ..	1,540,637	1,610,295	1,659,226
Miles per patient ratio	7.9	7.8	7.9

The arrangements with the British Red Cross Society and the St. John Ambulance Brigade continued to give a first class service. This service has been improved by the introduction of two way radio in one vehicle at each of the following places : Belford, Corbridge, Hexham and Wooler. The equipping of the B.R.C. reserve vehicle with radio fittings maintains the above radio coverage. The agency services have also been included in the co-ordination plan and maximum use is now being made of these vehicles in the inter-station and control co-ordination scheme.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Five Civil Defence exercises were arranged during the year including Civil Defence Ambulance and First Aid Sections and the peace-time service, with peace-time staff and vehicles taking part.

A local Ambulance and First Aid Section Instructors' Course was jointly organised with the Civil Defence Officer. Six candidates from the peace-time service took advantage of this course and all were successful in obtaining full certificates. Seven instructors from the peace-time service have assisted in training courses organised by the County Civil Defence Officer for Regular Army Units (8th Signals Regiment), Catterick Camp and T.A. Units.

Considerable advancement has been made in recruiting new members to the Ambulance and First Aid Section of the Corps, as a result of which new section training classes have been commenced at Gosforth (2), Newburn (1), Morpeth (1), Blyth (1) and Amble (1). All these classes are maintaining good attendances. In addition, all advanced classes are progressing well and high attendances are being maintained.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE

Notifications of tuberculosis were 202, 58 less than 1963 which was the previous lowest in the history of the county. 19 people died of tuberculosis, equivalent to 0.04 per thousand of the population. This again is the lowest death rate ever recorded.

Chest Clinic Service

There has been no major change in the service during the year. The work of prevention was concentrated on investigation of contacts of new and old cases while the routine tuberculin testing of child contacts continued. A record of the amount of B.C.G. vaccination required is given in the following paragraph.

B. C. G. Vaccination

The number of persons vaccinated through the Authority's approved arrangements under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act during the year is shown below :—

(a) Contact Scheme (Circular 72/49)					
(i)	No. skin tested	..	..	..	908
(ii)	No. found positive..	..	..	..	130
(iii)	No. found negative	..	..	..	777
(iv)	No. vaccinated	..	..	..	940
(b) School Children Scheme (Circulars 22/53, 7/59 and 6/61)					
(i)	No. skin tested	..	..	..	7,263
(ii)	No. found positive..	..	..	..	517
(iii)	No. found negative	..	..	..	6,364
(iv)	No. vaccinated	..	..	..	6,275
(c) Students Attending Further Education Establishments (Circular 7/59)					
(i)	No. skin tested	..	..	..	—
(ii)	No. found positive..	..	..	..	—
(iii)	No. found negative	..	..	..	—
(iv)	No. vaccinated	..	..	..	—
TOTAL vaccinated with B.C.G. in 1964..					7,215
TOTAL number of persons vaccinated since beginning of Scheme ..					54,837

Mass Miniature Radiography

The Regional Hospital Board provide mobile x-ray facilities for the general public, for medical practitioners and for staffs of commercial firms.

I am indebted to the Secretary of the two Units which cover the county for the figures shown in Table 12.

Unit 1A based at Newcastle General Hospital paid 14 visits to industrial establishments and 5 sessions for the general public were held in the southern part of the county during the year. A total of 10,590 films were taken and 9 cases of tuberculosis and 3 cases of cancer of the lung were discovered.

Unit 1B and its smaller caravan unit based on Preston Hospital, North Shields, visited 11 centres in the central, west and south east parts of the county and also visited psychiatric hospitals and approved schools. The number of films taken totalled 5,876 resulting in the discovery of 10 cases of tuberculosis.

Prevention of Break-up of Families

The co-ordinating committees under the able guidance of the area executive medical officers continued their work during the year, and the efforts of health visitors, child care officers, probation officers, education welfare officers and others prevented the break-up of many families.

At the end of the year there were 123 families regarded by the area co-ordinating committees as 'problem families', 25 families having been added during the year and 26 removed. Of the latter, 17 families were removed because the co-ordinating committees considered that they were sufficiently improved to warrant this and 9 families left the county.

The special work of the Family Care Sub-Committee within this field was continued, but difficulties with staff remained during the whole year. The service was operated by one female family caseworker until the middle of June when a male family caseworker was appointed. In August he commenced three months' training at the Sheffield Family Service Unit and by the time he resumed duty in the county in November the female family caseworker had resigned. The male family caseworker continued to operate the service single-handed for the remainder of the year.

The County Council continued the arrangement during the year for the utilisation of 40% of the time of the social worker employed by the Northumberland and Tyneside Council of Social Service and there was a change of worker. The total number of cases which had been referred to this social worker from various sources or which had applied for help was 133, including 6 old cases which had been re-opened.

The following table shows the work undertaken during the year by the County Council's family caseworkers :—

(1)	Number of families helped.. .. .	13
(2)	Number of families in which care was commenced ..	4
(3)	Number of families in which care was recommenced ..	1
(4)	Number of families in which care was discontinued ..	4
(5)	Number of children in families in (1)	55
(6)	Number of children taken into care by Children's Department out of (5)	—
(7)	Highest and lowest number of families in care at any one time	11 9

Of the families in which care was discontinued, three families were in temporary difficulties but were not suitable for continued casework and one family was transferred to the care of the social

worker of the Northumberland and Tyneside Council of Social Service. For the second time since the County Council operated this service directly, no children were taken into care by the Children's Department during the year.

Casework was continued with selected families, some being visited more intensively than others according to their particular problems. In some cases visits to the families became more and more infrequent as they gradually improved, but in other cases it was necessary to maintain the same intensity of visiting whether there was improvement or not. Some families improved while others remained about the same. This year a large proportion of families were referred mainly because of financial difficulties.

Arrangements were made for one boy to spend a few days by the sea at Easter.

The Chairman of the Family Care Sub-Committee kindly arranged a party for the children in the New Year and this was a great success. The members of a local Youth Club provided Easter eggs for the children.

Notifications are received from time to time from District Councils of threatened evictions on account of rent arrears. Health visitors and mental welfare officers have visited the families concerned, and on a number of occasions they have secured payment of the rent arrears and thus averted eviction.

Prevention of Venereal Diseases

CONTACT TRACING

The total number of contacts sought within the area was 24, five of whom were men. Twenty female contacts named were identified, three by contact tracers and 17 by patients themselves.

Nineteen female contacts were examined. The results were as follows :—

Syphilis	..	..	..	1
Gonorrhoea	..	..	..	16
Non-venereal	..	..	..	2

Of the five men, all were identified and examined. One was diagnosed syphilis and four gonorrhoea.

VISITING

As well as visits to contacts, health visitors paid 132 visits to other patients, mainly defaulters from treatment. Five patients were escorted to the clinic in an effort to promote regular attendance.

ANTE-NATAL SEROLOGICAL TESTS

There were 4,492 serological specimens submitted from the department's clinics for examination during the year.

Seven cases of maternal syphilis underwent treatment at the clinic prior to delivery and of the babies subsequently tested, five were found to be healthy and two mothers refused to have their babies tested.

Chiropody

A chiropody service is provided either directly by the Council or in co-operation with voluntary organisations and is available initially for the elderly, the physically handicapped and for expectant mothers.

Staffing difficulties which had previously restricted the development of the Council's service became less acute during the year. Two additional chiropodists were appointed, so raising the number in full-time employment from three to five. As a result it became possible to improve clinic and domiciliary services in an endeavour to meet the steadily increasing demand. The number of persons receiving treatment increased from 2,117 in 1963 to 2,735 this year and the number of treatments from 6,271 to 10,923.

Financial assistance was also given to 33 voluntary committees who were organising approved schemes for the elderly. A total of 3,330 persons received 13,352 treatments through these local services.

The aggregate number of treatments given during the year (24,275) shows an increase of 33% over the comparable figure (18,069) for 1963.

A record of work carried out during the year is shown in Table 14.

Health Education

Health Education has become an accepted part of the Council's provision for the prevention of illness and the work of the Department in this field has grown steadily. Medical, dental and nursing staffs arrange lectures and demonstrations in clinics, schools and, to an increasing extent, for social and welfare organisations throughout the County. Lectures are often supported by the sound-projection of suitable films and this medium of presentation plays an important part in ante- and post-natal care, the care of teeth, and in campaigns against cigarette smoking and the prevention of accidents in the home. A carefully selected library of films has been built up while additional films may be obtained on loan.

Many small exhibitions of propaganda materials are displayed in County clinics, the subject matter changing from time to time, and clinic staffs are to be commended on the originality of ideas, particularly in poster design and in the preparation of simple models and show-pieces which invariably attract more than passing interest.

Opportunity is taken whenever possible to participate with other organisations in public exhibitions which afford opportunity for demonstrating health and welfare services.

The co-operation of family doctors who display posters in their surgeries is greatly appreciated.

As in the previous year, considerable effort has been directed to the campaign against cigarette smoking. Talks were given to approximately 28,000 senior children in 63 secondary, 14 grammar and 2 technical schools and to some 2,000 students in teacher training colleges. While it is not possible at this stage to assess results, it can be said that the majority of children do display a lively interest and it may be that, when schools are revisited during the second phase of the campaign, there may be some clearer indication of progress.

Of no less importance, is the need to spotlight the growing menace of venereal disease. This is a campaign demanding careful planning and skilful presentation. Considerable preparatory discussion has already taken place, many films and other propaganda materials have been investigated and it is hoped that in 1965 it will be possible to present a more factual report on the programme now being prepared.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The number of women employed in this very important social service was 895 compared with 936 last year. All but five of these were part-time and worked in many homes in the course of a week. There is no limit to the length of time a home help may be provided when required and since 87% of the service is for assisting old people, it is true to say that most of the 3,561 old people have a home help throughout the year.

This has enabled all these people to remain in their own home and has relieved the Council of providing a similar number of places in old persons homes. In view of the constant pressure on beds, this is an extremely important service.

Administration has continued by Area Executive Medical Officers and their staff. Details of the types of cases included in the record total of 4,069 are given in Table 21.

Four home help organisers attached to the Area Offices have acted as a liaison between the patients and the office and have ensured that home helps have done a satisfactory job.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

ADMINISTRATION

The staff of the service consists of nine mental welfare officers and a welfare assistant who was appointed during the year. These officers work from six district offices and in addition to their work under the Mental Health Act also perform social welfare duties under Part III of the National Assistance Act, 1948 on behalf of the County Welfare Department. The service is supervised by a Senior Mental Welfare Officer.

The training centres staff consists of seven supervisors, six of whom are qualified, five qualified assistants, twelve unqualified assistants, three handcraft instructors, three trainees and two nursery assistants. This is an increase of two qualified assistants, two trainees and two nursery assistants during the year.

TRAINING OF STAFF

A week's refresher course for staff of training centres organised by the National Association for Mental Health was held at Birmingham and four teachers attended.

An unqualified assistant and a handcraft instructor were successful in obtaining a Diploma for Teachers of the Mentally Handicapped. A trainee was given two years leave of absence to attend a Diploma Course.

The majority of the staff of training centres attended a Regional Study Day which was arranged by Sunderland Local Health Authority. This included lectures, discussions and films on mentally subnormal persons in training centres.

CO-ORDINATION WITH HOSPITAL AUTHORITIES

During the year there has been close contact between mental welfare officers and the medical and social staffs of the psychiatric hospitals in the county. The mental welfare officers have attended regular monthly meetings with consultant staff at St. George's Hospital, Morpeth and these have proved successful in bringing about closer co-ordination in the mental health field and also provided a continuity of service by the mental welfare officers associating with their patients during treatment and prior to discharge.

WORK UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMMUNITY

The volume of work within the community has increased and great importance is given to the social aspect of the mental welfare officers' work which now overshadows their statutory duties.

The increase in the work of the mental welfare officers was maintained over the past six years as shown in the following table.

		<i>Visits to Mentally Ill</i>		<i>Total Visits</i>
1959	..	1,360	..	5,878
1960	..	2,094	..	6,145
1961	..	2,117	..	6,567
1962	..	2,631	..	7,306
1963	..	3,047	..	8,439
1964	..	3,659	..	9,226

The total number of mentally disordered persons receiving community care at the end of the year was 850 and the number of new referrals during the year was 788 made up of 704 mentally ill, 7 psychopaths and 77 mentally subnormal patients which is an overall increase from the figures of 1963.

The statutory admissions into mental hospitals by mental welfare officers totalled 281, 46 were under Section 26 and 235 under Sections 25 and 29 of the Mental Health Act, 174 remaining as informal patients on the expiration of their period of observation. During the year 1,034 patients were admitted informally into hospitals.

There were 29 mentally subnormal patients admitted into hospital on an informal basis, compared with 35 in 1963. Eleven children under 16 years of age and 15 adults still urgently wait admission to hospital while there are also 3 children and 11 adults who would benefit by care but are not considered urgent cases. Arrangements were made for 52 mentally subnormal persons to be provided with short term care, so that their parents could have a holiday or have respite from the continual care of the patient.

The total number of mentally disordered persons under community care of the Local Health Authority is shown on page 98 and a summary of the work performed by the mental welfare officers is shown in table 22.

TRAINING CENTRES

Progress continued to be maintained in the training facilities for 277 mentally subnormal and severely subnormal persons in the following centres :—

Alnwick	Barndale House, Howling Lane, Alnwick.
Ashington	South View, Ashington.
Bedlington	1 Beech Grove, Bedlington.
Berwick	Palace Street East, Berwick.
Hexham	Priory Buildings, Beaumont Street, Hexham.
Prudhoe	54 West Road, Prudhoe.
Wallsend	Elton Street East, Wallsend.

During the year, arrangements were made for the adult men attending Wallsend Training Centre to be transferred to premises which were formally used as a clinic. The accommodation previously used by the men was equipped for use as a Special Care Unit to cater for children who are severely subnormal and physically

handicapped and who need care and basic habit training. Within a comparatively short time, the children attending this Unit have shown an improvement in their behaviour and performance.

A specially designed domestic science room for adult female trainees has been added to Wallsend Training Centre. This unit has been fitted with the most up-to-date kitchen equipment thereby creating the right working atmosphere for training of this nature.

The industrial units in Ashington, Bedlington and Wallsend centres have continued to show very satisfactory results in regard to work undertaken on behalf of local firms on a contract basis together with a variety of work from departments of the County Council.

The remuneration from this type of work is paid to the trainees according to ability and application to the job.

Experience has proved beyond doubt that the adult mentally handicapped can be trained to undertake work within a sheltered environment which is of use both to themselves in developing their potential capabilities and social standards and to the community in general. Plans have been prepared for the erection of a specially built Industrial Unit for 70 men and women near Blyth. When completed this will relieve overcrowding at the present three units.

Mid-day meals have continued to be provided in day training centres by the School Meals Service at a charge of 1/- per day to the parents excepting in cases of financial hardship, when arrangements are made for free meals to be provided.

Arrangements continued whereby medical and dental examinations were carried out by the school medical and dental staff.

Private hire transport was used to convey the trainees to and from the centres.

The centres continued to receive generous support in the form of gifts and donations from many local organisations and these were greatly appreciated by the staff and pupils in the centres.

The holiday venture of last year was repeated in the summer of 1964, when some of the members of the staff from Wallsend Training Centre took a number of mentally subnormal young men and women to a holiday home at Thropton for one week.

THERAPEUTIC SOCIAL CLUBS

There are two clubs providing social activities suited to the special needs of mentally subnormal persons. These are held fortnightly in training centres premises and supervised voluntarily by the staff of the centres. The average membership of each club is now 40 young men and women.

During the year two Psychiatric Social Clubs were established in training centre premises. These clubs meet weekly and are

known as the " Wednesday " and " Thursday " Clubs. The average membership at each club is in the region of 25 and the members take part in table tennis, billiards, various card games and have the use of a record player. The clubs are supervised by voluntary workers together with members of the mental health staff.

VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Two organisations, the Gosforth and District Peter Pan Society and the Whitley Bay and District Society for Mentally Handicapped Children have arranged social clubs weekly for mentally subnormal persons and these and other social activities are greatly appreciated.

Following a successful holiday camp last year for mentally subnormal children organised by the Northumberland Branch of the British Red Cross Society, they found it a most worthwhile and interesting project and they arranged for 28 boys and girls to have a week's holiday at Glanton again this year.

NURSERIES AND CHILD MINDERS REGULATION ACT 1948

The number of premises registered as private day nurseries rose from 4 to 8, and the number of children accommodated rose from 77 to 197.

The number of registered child minders increased from 28 to 30, and the number of places from 335 to 343.

All persons registered under the above Act are visited regularly to ensure that adequate standards of care are maintained.

Many of the registered child minders are qualified infant teachers and are taking children aged 3—5 years from 9 a.m. — midday only, for nursery teaching and social training.

The numbers reflect an increasing demand for nursery school accommodation.

Nursery classes are held on one morning a week in eight local authority clinics. These classes were started at the request of mothers attending the clinics and are run by voluntary workers under the guidance of nursery teachers who also work voluntarily. The ages of children attending these classes are from 3—5 years.

NURSING HOMES

There was no change in the number of registered nursing homes. Two are situated in Gosforth and one in Hexham. This last home is also registered as an old people's home.

The nursing homes have been regularly inspected and continued to give a satisfactory standard of nursing care.

HOMES FOR OLD AND DISABLED PERSONS

These must be registered in accordance with Section 37 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

There has been a constant demand for beds in these homes since there is still a shortage of Council owned homes and fortunately there is no dearth of people wishing to have their homes registered.

The homes have been regularly inspected by the County Welfare Officer and the Deputy County Medical Officer and most homes gave a reasonable amount of care and attention to the old people.

At the end of the year there were 25 homes and a total of 344 beds.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948

WELFARE OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS

During the last ten years the number of registered blind has not changed appreciably, the number at the end of each year varying between 710 to 747 ; new cases registered blind annually averaging 94. The register of partially sighted over the same period showed a gradual increase each year until 1960, and since then there has been a slight but gradual decrease.

On the other hand the number of generally handicapped registered since 1955 has more than doubled, increasing from 438 in December of that year to 995 in December 1964. Annual new registrations have varied between 53 and 177 registered this year.

The numbers of deaf and hard of hearing have not varied a great deal during the last decade, the number increasing by 26 over the period.

At the end of the year, 2,278 handicapped persons were registered under one or other of the Council's three schemes.

Voluntary committees for the generally handicapped are registered as charities under the National Assistance Act and, in addition to receiving grants from the County Council, several increased their funds by special efforts such as Bring and Buy Sales, Sales of Work, etc.

An additional voluntary committee for handicapped persons was inaugurated at Alnwick, and during the year 21 voluntary committees (12 for the blind, 7 for generally handicapped and 2 for the blind and generally handicapped) conducted clubs and arranged outings.

Craft classes for the blind, partially sighted and generally handicapped were held at various centres by home teachers and craft instructors. Despite the severe handicaps and restricted hand movements of many attending, some excellent work was turned out. Articles produced were disposed of privately and also at exhibitions and sales of work, at Warkworth Flower Show, Merley Croft, Morpeth, Alnwick Clinic and at County Hall.

It is extremely difficult to find suitable holiday accommodation in the area for handicapped persons unable to negotiate stairs. However, holidays which were arranged were successful and beneficial, and the Council also encouraged other handicapped persons to go away to friends or relatives by assisting in the cost of train fares, etc. The undermentioned table summarises the holidays which were arranged or assisted with financially during the year :—

Holidays for blind in special holiday homes	..	..	18
„ for deaf-blind to Bridlington	..	..	4
„ to Marske Hall, Redcar	..	..	3
„ to Alne Hall, York	..	..	1
„ to Thropton	..	..	39
„ to Caister Bay Holiday Camp	..	..	15
„ to Ulgham, near Morpeth	..	..	17
„ to Merley Croft, Morpeth	..	..	28
„ to Nicholas Garrow Home for Blind	..	..	13
„ for handicapped children to Red Cross Camp at Glanton	..	..	28
„ to Armstrong House, Bamburgh	..	..	3
Specially assisted holidays	..	..	28
			<hr/> 197 <hr/>

In addition, arrangements were made for some handicapped persons to spend a period at Thomas Taylor Homes to give friends and relatives an opportunity of going away.

Blind and Partially Sighted

REGISTRATION

During the year ophthalmologists carried out 200 examinations under the Council's scheme compared with 163 in 1963. The 106 newly registered blind during the year included an eleven year old ineducable girl, 9 persons between the ages of 16 and 59 and five aged 60—64. A child of four was recertified as blind, having originally been registered blind and subsequently transferred to partially sighted.

Fifty one persons were newly registered as partially sighted—four children, one youth, three aged 21—49, and five aged 50—64.

The age groups of the registered blind and partially sighted on 31st December were as follows :—

	BLIND			PARTIALLY SIGHTED		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5	—	1	1	1	—	1
5—15	9	5	14	15	14	29
16—20	7	1	8	12	6	18
21—49	65	45	110	25	8	33
50—64	67	55	122	16	24	40
65 plus	176	297	473	35	103	138
	<hr/> 324 <hr/>	<hr/> 404 <hr/>	<hr/> 728 <hr/>	<hr/> 104 <hr/>	<hr/> 155 <hr/>	<hr/> 259 <hr/>

CAUSES OF BLINDNESS AND DEFECTIVE VISION

The following table summarises the causes of blindness and defective vision and the recommendations and treatment carried out during the year :—

	Cataract		Glaucoma		Others	
	Blind	P.S.	Blind	P.S.	Blind	P.S.
Number of cases registered during year..	33	17	16	7	57	27
<i>Recommendations :</i>						
(a) No treatment ..	12	3	1	—	35	4
(b) Treatment recommended :—						
Surgical	14	8	1	—	3	3
Medical or hospital supervision ..	7	6	14	7	14	16
Optical	—	—	—	—	5	4
<i>Follow Up Treatment carried out —</i>						
Surgical	7	—	1	—	1	—
Medical or hospital supervision ..	7	6	12	6	14	16
Optical	—	—	—	—	5	4
Willing to undergo treatment when eyes are ready or beds become available or if physical condition improves ..	2	8	—	—	1	3
Not agreeable for treatment, undecided or too frail	5	—	—	—	1	—
Died	—	—	2	1	—	—

SOCIAL WELFARE

A summary of visits paid by the seven home teachers are shown in Table 24. All registered blind and partially sighted were visited by the home teaching staff at regular intervals according to the needs of the individuals. Advice and help was given to blind persons with personal problems, and Braille, Moon and crafts were taught both at home and in classes. A home teacher escorted a little blind girl from Newcastle to London Airport and saw her on to a plane to Rhodesia where she joined her parents for her summer holidays. She was met again at the airport by the home teacher when she returned to England.

Arrangements were made for blind readers to become members of the National Library for the Blind or the Tynemouth Library when they became proficient in reading embossed types, the Council making an annual contribution to both these organisations.

During the year 43 wireless sets were issued on behalf of the British Wireless for the Blind Fund and 43 certificates for free wireless licences were issued.

Blind persons in hospitals and homes were visited.

EMPLOYMENT

Of the six males between the ages of 30 and 59 registered during the year, only two were available or suitable for employment. One underwent a course of industrial rehabilitation which he completed in December. The other man had been registered as partially sighted for some time but efforts to find him suitable employment were unsuccessful. Three other persons received courses of industrial rehabilitation during the year.

The table shows the employment position for blind persons on 31st December :—

Employed in Workshops for the Blind	27
Employed as approved home workers	2
Employed in other capacities	32
Undergoing training—sheltered	2
Undergoing training—open employment.. ..	3
Available for employment but unemployed	4
	<hr/>
	70
	<hr/>

The blind employed under ordinary conditions included 9 telephonists, 2 typists, 2 teachers (employed in special establishments outside the County), a masseur, solicitor, clergyman, piano tuner, 2 agricultural workers, 4 factory workers and others employed in domestic or labouring jobs.

Twenty six partially sighted whose vision will probably remain static were employed, also ten whose prognosis is that they will probably become blind.

Generally Handicapped

REGISTRATION

Handicapped persons registered during the year were referred to the department by consultants, medical practitioners, hospital almoners, officers of the Ministries of Health and Labour, and other sources.

It is not necessary for an applicant to obtain a medical certificate or to be medically examined in order to be registered, but when there was a doubt about the cause or degree of disability practitioners or hospital authorities were consulted, and the department is grateful for their co-operation and advice.

A summary of causes of disabilities is given in Table 25.

SOCIAL WELFARE

The majority of the handicapped people welcomed the opportunity of discussing personal and other problems with a welfare visitor. Advice was given on structural alterations and apparatus available to help handicapped persons to become more independent, and during the year the Council paid for or gave financial

assistance towards the cost of alterations or special equipment for 46 persons. In addition, the Committee agreed to give grants to Blyth and Whitley Bay Borough Councils towards the costs of adapting houses for handicapped persons. It is encouraging to learn that housing authorities are helping handicapped persons in this way, and it is hoped that more housing authorities will include houses for the disabled in their programmes.

The scheme for the provision of car badges for severely disabled drivers as recommended by the Ministry of Health has been in operation since 1961. During the year 92 badges were issued to new applicants and 83 were re-issued for change of car, three year validity period expiring, etc.

A married couple living in the County area — Mr. and Mrs. R. Thompson — both handicapped, took part in the Para-Olympic Games held in Tokio. Mr. Thompson was successful in winning two gold medals and his wife a silver medal.

Two craft instructors have held instruction classes in a number of places and also in patients' homes, and details of their work is as follows :—

Craft Instruction 1964					
	No. of patients		Total	No. of	Total
	At home	In classes	visits	classes	attendances
Mrs. Garbutt	49	70	647	181	2,083
Mrs. Bainbridge	40	62	502	171	1,872
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	89	132	1,149	352	3,955

Twice weekly craft classes were also held at the home at Morpeth, and a total of 1,944 attendances were made.

The classes at Alnwick continued to be conducted by a part-time occupational therapist and craft instructor.

An additional craft instructor was appointed towards the end of the year.

EMPLOYMENT

A close liaison was maintained between officers of the Ministry of Labour and the department in connection with employment for handicapped persons, and during the year the following employment was obtained :—

Remploy	3
Clerical	4
Telephony	1
Porter	1
Gardening	1
Factory	2
Machinists and tailoring	2
General help in school	1
<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	15
	<hr/>

EPILEPTICS AND SPASTIC PERSONS

The number of registered spastic and epileptic persons has increased by 11 to a total of 149. Seven of these are children and in addition there are 52 other spastic children known but not registered.

During the year spastic and epileptic persons attended clubs and craft classes and also went for outings and holidays with other physically handicapped people.

Domiciliary craft instruction was also given.

The Percy Hedley Centre administered in conjunction with the School opened Chipchase in Forest Hall as a hostel for spastics attending the day work centre. In December the Council was financially responsible for 4 spastics at the hostel, and also contributed towards the cost of 12 attending the day work centre.

The Council maintained a spastic man in a Cheshire Home and 11 epileptics in colonies.

Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Northumberland and Durham Mission continued to act as agent for the welfare of the deaf in the south-east area of the county, home teachers for the blind being responsible for welfare services in the north and west. The Mission was also available for specialist services over the whole of the county.

The register was divided into three sections as follows :—

<i>Deaf with Speech</i>	<i>Deaf without Speech</i>	<i>Hard of Hearing</i>
139	97	60

EMPLOYMENT

Eight deaf, mostly school leavers, were placed in employment by the Mission's officer during the year.

SOCIAL

Clubs at Blyth and Wallsend continued to function and an additional club was started at Ashington. In addition, several deaf from the county attended the Newcastle Club.

Outings to Berwick and Dunbar were arranged and deaf persons took part in a holiday to Southport which the Mission arranged.

Grants were given to Hard of Hearing Clubs and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul who ran a club for catholic deaf.

A deaf person was maintained in a home administered by the National Institute for the Deaf.

Special Homes

NICHOLAS GARROW HOME, HEPSCOTT

The home provides accommodation for 31 blind residents. During the year seven residents died, of whom four were aged 91 and over. One woman was moved to hospital and another woman left to make her home with a relative. Eleven men and women were admitted as permanent residents and thirteen spent holidays in the home.

The residents were encouraged to take an interest in hand-work, although the old ladies have always been found to be more industrious and keen than the men. A weekly service of a non-denominational character has been held. The annual garden party to which each resident invited one or two friends was very successful and enjoyable.

MERLEY CROFT, MORPETH.

This home, opened in 1963, has accommodation for 32 young physically handicapped persons of both sexes, the ratio of males and females accommodated during the year being about equal. One man was moved to hospital, two were transferred to other homes, and arrangements were made for a youth to be transferred to the Percy Hedley Hostel from where he attended the day work centre.

There was one death. Two beds were retained for a time for holiday admissions which helped to make it possible for 28 handicapped people to spend a holiday in the home during the year.

Craft instruction was given by two instructors twice a week, and following the appointment of additional staff towards the end of the year three craft sessions were held each week.

One of the Council's chiropodists visited regularly to give treatment and a physiotherapist agreed to attend the home three times a week. This proved to be a very worthwhile additional service.

Great interest was shown in the home, and visitors included consultants, social workers, Ministry officials and people from overseas.

I would like to express my appreciation to the many organisations and individuals who gave their services voluntarily in helping handicapped people in many ways, both to the residents in the two homes and to others living in their own homes, during the year.

HOUSING

NEW HOUSES

The number of new houses built in the county during 1964 was 2,825, an increase over the previous year's 2,579, but still a little below the post-war average. Details will be found in Table 26. The increase was in local authority housing, where the total of 973 was the highest for 3 years without including the 366 houses in the Castle Ward Rural District added by Newcastle Corporation to their housing estates in that area. Private building, with 1,477 houses, showed little change from 1963. It is interesting to note that tables published during the year from the 1961 Census show that the national stock of houses has increased by 18% during the 10 year census interval ; the comparable figure for Northumberland of new houses built, less those discontinued, was 21% over the 1951 total.

SLUM CLEARANCE

A total of 976 houses were put out of use during the year (a figure almost exactly equal to the number of council houses built, although the figures do not correspond by districts. See Table 27).

Seven county districts can now report no unfit houses left to be demolished, but many others still have a substantial number to be dealt with out of the original programme submitted in 1954, and in the meantime additional properties are no doubt having to be added to the list from time to time. The Ministry has once more asked for a re-appraisal of the situation, as at mid-1965, and it will be interesting to see what the new estimates for Northumberland reveal. One difficulty which the Ministry is hoping to overcome is the difference in standards throughout the country : there is really a need for more objective criteria in assessing unfitness, and a study of the figures obtained from the various county districts suggests that variations exist even within the area of this county.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

These grants, details of which will be found in Table 28, are of two kinds : " discretionary grants " for complete reconditioning of dwelling houses, and " standard grants " available as of right to any property owner for the installation of such amenities as bath, hot water supply, and inside water closet.

The number of discretionary grants approved was 883, a figure comparable with the previous year's 918, and well up to the average for the past 5 years. The total for standard grants was 431, the highest for any year since the scheme was instituted, and over 1,100 houses have now been provided with internal W.C's. and bathrooms by this procedure. The number of hot water supplies so provided is also more than 1,000.

There is provision for the modernisation of the older council-owned properties along similar lines, and it is pleasing to see that at least one authority, Wallsend Borough, has been carrying out an annual programme of providing bathrooms to aged persons' bungalows and washbasins to pre-war council houses.

One criticism of the improvement grant scheme has for years been that no compulsion was possible on the part of the housing authority to make owners provide these necessary services to dwellings otherwise sound and likely to have a reasonable expectation of life. This has at last been remedied by the coming into force of the Housing Act 1964, which provides for the service of notices in such cases, and for the declaration of "improvement areas" in which the houses shall all be dealt with in this way. Unfortunately the procedure under the Act, taking into account as it must the unwilling tenant as well as the unwilling landlord, is rather lengthy and complicated and in extreme cases may result in the property having to be purchased by the local authority. Since the Act only came into force in August, it is unlikely as yet to have had any effect on the figures under review. It will be interesting to see how much it is made use of in Northumberland.

WATER SUPPLIES

There was no change in the arrangements for water supply during the year. The County is now served by 2 statutory undertakings whose areas of supply are as follows :—

NEWCASTLE AND GATESHEAD WATER COMPANY : The Boroughs of Berwick, Blyth and Wallsend ; the Urban Districts of Alnwick, Amble, Gosforth, Hexham, Longbenton, Newburn, Prudhoe, Seaton Valley ; the Rural Districts of Alnwick, Belford, Bellingham, Castle Ward, Glendale, Haltwhistle, Hexham, Norham and Islandshires and Rothbury. (A small part of the extreme South of Hexham Rural District is, as a matter of convenience, included in the statutory area of the Durham County Water Board).

TYNEMOUTH CORPORATION : the Boroughs of Morpeth and Whitley Bay ; the Urban Districts of Ashington, Bedlingtonshire, Newbiggin ; the Rural District of Morpeth.

The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company derives its supplies from an impounding reservoir at Catcleugh, from certain main springs and two river intakes, at Barrasford and Wylam. The Tynemouth supply is derived from main springs, an impounding reservoir on the River Font and from a river intake at Mitford. Both undertakings are also participants in the Coquet Water Board Scheme with a river intake at Warkworth, and this now forms the main source of supply for those districts in the north of the county which are within the Water Company's statutory area. There are in addition several local sources which have now been taken over by the two suppliers and which are reliable enough to be maintained indefinitely. The Borough of Berwick and Glendale Rural District are served by self-contained schemes of this nature.

In those areas newly served by the Coquet Water Board northern trunk main, work continued during the year by the Water Company, with the assistance of financial guarantees by the local authorities and grant aid from the Ministry and the County Council, to provide a local mains network to distribute the Coquet water, and it was pleasing to be informed that 1964 was the first year to have no shortage reported from the coastal area of Belford Rural District during the peak holiday season. In all, about 600,000 gallons per day are now being made available by the trunk main to North Northumberland.

The bacteriological examination of water is undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory at the General Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne. Copies of the reports on water samples submitted by authorities in the administrative county were received in the department and any unsatisfactory results were investigated. Nine hundred and sixty samples were taken during the year (as compared with 899 in 1963) from both public and private supplies. Five hundred and seventy-nine were highly satisfactory and 103 satisfactory, 58 suspicious and 220 unsatisfactory. The number of unsatisfactory samples is declining and although it may still appear high it is accounted for mainly by special investigations into individual private sources with a view to their improvement or their abandonment in favour of newly-provided public supplies.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Major works of this nature in progress during the year included the final stages of the Bedlingtonshire main trunk scheme, virtually complete, the Newbiggin town sewerage scheme, and the first stage of the Cramlington New Town sewerage system. Morpeth Borough Council submitted a further scheme for extensions to their sewage treatment works, which gives an indication of the rapid growth of this town, previous extensions having been completed as recently as 1961; in this case a complication was the insistence by the River Board upon purification higher than Royal Commission standard, because of the relatively low dilution now available in the River Wansbeck at this point, where of course it is affected by Tynemouth Corporation's water abstraction upstream at Mitford.

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government announced during the year that national capital expenditure in the years 1951 to 1964 on sewerage and sewage disposal works was over £400 million. The Northumberland authorities' share of this total is calculated to have been approximately £2½ million.

RURAL WATER SUPPLIES AND SEWERAGE ACTS, 1944 — 55

Schemes Submitted for Approval

The following schemes were submitted during the year for

the consideration of the County Water Supplies and Sewerage Committee under the above Acts :—

		£
Alnwick Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Embleton and Christon Bank (revised scheme) ..	88,000
Bellingham Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Ridsdale (revised scheme)	9,388 (plus 15%)
Haltwhistle Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Bardon Mill and Henshaw	48,060
	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Greenhead and Bank Foot	25,845
	Shield Hill Sewer Extension ..	6,714
Morpeth Rural District	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Thirston	24,000
	Sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Hepscott	30,450

In spite of the fact that the number of schemes coming before the Committee for approval is now much reduced, there are still a few notable omissions in the provision of proper sewerage facilities for the main centres of population in the county.

Ministry Inquiries and Investigations

Local inquiries and investigations into the following proposed schemes were held by Ministry of Housing and Local Government inspectors :—

- (a) An investigation at Hexham on the 19th February into Hexham Rural District Council's sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Horsley, Ovington and Ovingham. (£46,086).
- (b) An investigation at Morpeth on the 20th February into the proposals for extension of the Morpeth Borough sewage disposal works (£168,000).
- (c) An investigation at Morpeth on the 8th October into Morpeth Rural District Council's sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Thirston (£24,000).
- (d) An investigation at Morpeth on the 9th October into Morpeth Rural District Council's sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Hepscott (£30,450).

My department was represented on these occasions and evidence was given, where appropriate, in support of the schemes. In the case of the Horsley/Ovingham scheme, it was suggested on behalf of the County Council that the possibility be explored of an arrangement between the Hexham Rural District Council and the adjoining Prudhoe Urban District Council where there is conveniently situated and up-to-date disposal works readily capable of extension. Similarly, for Thirston which is in fact a complementary half of the village of Felton and divided from it by the river, it was felt that a more desirable scheme might be an extension of the existing works in Felton owned by the Alnwick Rural District

Council, by agreement between the two authorities. In each of these cases the point was taken by the Ministry, and the schemes were referred back for consultations along these lines.

Work in Progress

The following are details of work in progress in the county during the year with some indication of the stage reached by 31st December :—

<i>District.</i>	<i>Scheme.</i>	<i>Progress.</i>
Bedlingtonshire Urban District	Main drainage scheme, Phase 2.	90% completed.
Newbiggin Urban District	Main drainage scheme	80% completed.
Alnwick Rural District	Comprehensive water supply scheme for Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.	50% completed.
Belford Rural District	Belford sewage works extension	Commenced.
Hexham Rural District	Sewerage scheme, Langley, Haydon Bridge	90% completed.
	Comprehensive water supply scheme for Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company ..	98% completed.

Schemes Completed During the Year

<i>District.</i>	<i>Scheme.</i>	<i>Month.</i>
Wallsend Municipal Borough	Sewerage scheme, Hadrian Road sewer	November
Whitley Bay Municipal Borough	Sewerage scheme, Brierdene 48" sewer	July
Ashington Urban District	Sewerage scheme, Newbiggin Road	December
Seaton Valley Urban District	Sewerage scheme, Cramlington (a) Extension to existing works and sewers	October
	(b) Outfall sewer	June
Castle Ward Rural District	Stannington Village, sewerage scheme	March
	Sewerage scheme, Ingoe	September
Glendale Rural District	Lowick sewerage scheme	June
Haltwhistle Rural District	Sewerage scheme, Rowfoot, Featherstone, Haltwhistle. ..	January
	Sewer extension, Shield Hill, Haltwhistle	June
Hexham Rural District	Sewerage schemes, Chesterwood and Langley, Haydon Bridge ..	August
Morpeth Rural District	Sewerage scheme, Ulgham ..	November
Rothbury Rural District	Wingates sewerage scheme ..	January

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Following a period of "marking time" noted in last year's report and resulting from difficulties in the supply of smokeless fuel, 1964 saw no new smoke control areas in force additional to the two areas each in Wallsend Borough and Newburn Urban District, previously reported. There were, however, four proposed areas submitted during the year for Ministry confirmation, two more from Wallsend, one from Newburn and the first one from Whitley Bay Borough (deferred from 1963) and perhaps the resumption of these cautious steps forward may this time gather some momentum. It is nevertheless to be regretted that certain local authorities in the more highly polluted south-eastern end of the county are still without outward or visible sign of any intention to make progress in this matter.

MILK AND DAIRIES

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960

Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1963

Under the above Regulations, the County Council as food and drugs authority for the whole of its area (except the Borough of Wallsend) has the duty of licensing and supervision of all dealers in designated milk, and this work is carried out within the department, together with supervision of milk treatment plants, specified area enforcement etc.

The effect of the 1963 Regulations, which came fully into force in October 1964, was to change the permitted designations to "Pasteurised", "Sterilised" and "Untreated", and the old designation "Tuberculin Tested" ceased to be recognised (with a period of grace up to the end of the year to allow dealers to use up stocks of existing bottle caps and cartons). This meant that all those dealers handling raw milk under existing T.T. licences had to be re-licensed for the new grade "Untreated." The numbers involved were 15 bottling dealers and 65 dealers in pre-packed milk.

DEALERS' LICENCES

Changes in the number of licences in force are shown in the accompanying Table.

	At 1st January 1964	Additions during year	Deletions during year	At 31st December 1964
Licence to bottle Tuberculin Tested Milk (Form B) (to 30/9/64)	19	—	4	—
Licence to bottle Untreated Milk (Form B) (from 1/10/64) ..	—	—	—	15
Pasteuriser's Licence (Form C)	6	—	—	6
Steriliser's Licence (Form C)	2	—	—	2
Dealer's Licence for Tuberculin Tested (or Untreated), Pasteurised Sterilised Milk (Form E)	300	30	20	310
Dealer's Licence for Sterilised Milk only (Form E)	387	7	6	388
	714	37	30	721

Most of the alterations were accounted for by changes of ownership. Apart from the purely administrative work of issuing licences, regular inspections of dealers' premises are required and samples of milk are taken for examination by the statutory tests laid down in the Special Designation Regulations. This work is carried out by the County Health Inspector and during the year 454 visits were paid to dealers other than licensed processors. This represents a slight increase over 1963. Only a few isolated cases were any contraventions of the Regulations found and these were dealt with satisfactorily by warnings.

It is obviously desirable to keep strict control over the sale of pasteurised or fresh milk in shops, but one may perhaps wonder at the necessity for licences to trade in sterilised milk. There are many foodstuffs which may be sold in shops without any such restriction and which are far more liable to deterioration and therefore potentially more dangerous. Providing the sterilising process is adequately supervised (as provided for in the Regulations), this product has a safe shelf-life measured in weeks rather than in days. It will be noted that more than half the total licences in the county are for the sale of sterilised milk only, and these are almost all for shops, many of them selling only a few bottles weekly. It is questionable whether the administrative work involved here is really necessary.

PRODUCERS' LICENCES

These continued to be the responsibility of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food through their county officers, to whom I am indebted for the figures quoted in this paragraph. The number of farms in the county registered for milk production followed the national trend and continued to decrease, the total remaining at the end of the year being 777 compared with 823 for the previous year. With the coming into force of the new Special Designation Regulations the necessity for licensing of T.T. producers has ceased, all producers now being deemed to be of T.T. standard and all cattle being attested. Those who dispose of their milk by retail or as farm bottled do however require an "Untreated" milk producer's licence from the Ministry, and 176 of these were in force at the end of December. Not all of these necessarily carry on a substantial retail business. At the 30th September when T.T. licences were discontinued there were 721 in force. A measure of the progress achieved since the end of the war is given by the fact that in 1945 the number of T.T. licences was only 80, representing less than 10% of the total dairy herds.

MILK SAMPLING — STATUTORY

During the year the policy was continued of organising routine sampling so as to relate the frequency of sampling to the volume of business carried on by the various dealers, to avoid as

far as possible duplication, but at the same time to spread the work over the areas of the various County districts. Each local authority is furnished with a monthly report of all samples taken within its area. Greater supervision is obviously necessary in the case of raw milk. On the other hand, since the statutory test for sterilised milk is only intended to indicate efficiency of heat treatment, and since milk which complies with the test at the time of production will not subsequently fail, there is little point in extensive sampling from dealers' shops.

While engaged on sampling from dealers the opportunity has been taken where possible of including a limited number of samples from producer-retailers on their rounds, principally for the purpose of biological investigation, but such samples have also been submitted to the keeping quality test, and any failures obtained reported to the Milk Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, whose responsibility they are. Under the new Regulations the clot-on-boiling test has been discontinued and all designated milks are now subject to the same Methylene Blue Test for keeping quality.

The total number of samples taken during the year was 1,486, compared with 1,546 for the preceding year. The number of failures was slightly less, but a number of samples were reported as "void" due to high atmospheric temperature during the summer period.

	Passed	Failed	Void	Total
<i>Tuberculin Tested Milk</i> (to 30/9/64)				
Clot-On-Boiling Test—				
Producers' Samples ..	84	—	—	84
Methylene Blue Test—				
Dealers' Samples	76	1	1	78
<i>Untreated Milk (from 1/10/64)</i>				
Methylene Blue Test ..	48	3	—	51
<i>Pasteurised Milk</i>				
Methylene Blue Test ..	622	15	12	649
Phosphatase Test	648	1	—	649
<i>Sterilised Milk</i>				
Turbidity Test	53	—	—	53
	1,454	19	13	1,486

MILK SAMPLING — BIOLOGICAL

Details of samples submitted for biological testing for tuberc-

ulosis and brucella abortus infection were as follows :—

	Number of Samples.
From Bottling Dealers	7
From other Dealers	40
School Supplies (Producer-Retailers) ..	44
From other Producer-Retailers	52
Hospital Farms (on behalf of the Ministry of Health)	8
	<hr/>
	151
	<hr/>

Once again there was no evidence of tuberculosis in any of these samples. This happy state of affairs has existed since 1959 when the last case was recorded. It is nevertheless worth while to continue this testing, in view of the long interval between herd tests by the Ministry's Animal Health Division, during which period a chance infection would have time to run riot in a herd which would not nowadays have a natural immunity to the disease. There is also the remote possibility of infection proceeding from a human case having access to milk or animals.

The number of cases of brucella-infected milk discovered during the year was 6. Five of these were found as a result of sampling done by the department, and one was referred from a neighbouring authority. Investigations were carried out on the herds in question and in two cases the affected animals were fairly quickly identified by individual sampling, were segregated, and eventually were satisfactorily disposed of. In another case, the proportion of the herd showing signs of milk infection was so large that the producer voluntarily gave up his retail round and sent all his milk for heat treatment. Here it was necessary to make alternative arrangements, after much difficulty, for a supply of milk for the village concerned. (There was a strong suspicion that a case of undulant fever had occurred locally as a result of this herd infection, but fortunately in no other case was there any such evidence).

One further case yielded no result on repeated individual samples, the inference being that the infected cow was one of a batch sold between the date of the original sample and the final report ; another case was referred to the adjoining authority in whose area the farm was situated. The remaining case was one which gave much concern, being of a herd which had figured in similar investigations in the two previous years and had been thought to be cleared on both occasions. The district medical officer being anxious to avoid, except as a last resort, making an order under Regulation 20 of the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations for compulsory heat treatment, the co-operation of the farmer's own veterinary surgeon was obtained and an intensive programme of blood testing and individual milk sampling was instituted with

strict segregation of all suspected animals under supervision, until disposed of. At the time of writing, this case is not yet closed but there is every reason to believe that these measures are achieving the desired result, and in the meantime regular samples of that part of the milk which is being sold untreated have shown no further evidence of infection.

Since both county district councils and the county authority are implicated in these cases by virtue of their powers and duties under the Milk Regulations and the Food and Drugs Act, it is pleasing to be able to record that there has been excellent co-operation between both sides in these investigations which are frequently protracted and difficult.

Two of the above cases were of producers supplying milk to rural schools. Further reference is made to these in the appropriate section of this report.

In the early part of the year testing was continued on behalf of the department by the Public Health Laboratory for the presence in milk of penicillin or other antibiotics and altogether 135 samples of raw milk supplies were examined, all with negative results. However, following the receipt of a further official circular on this subject it was decided that this work was more appropriate to the County Weights and Measures Department as the sampling authority under the Food and Drugs Act, and as from the end of September no further samples were taken by the County Health Inspector for this purpose.

PASTEURISING PLANTS

The number of licensed pasteurising plants in the County remained at 6, with daily throughputs varying from 1,000 to 9,600 gallons. All the plants are of modern design and operate on the H.T.S.T. system, the total quantity of milk treated being about 27,000 gallons per day.

One firm has succeeded in establishing a trade for pasteurised homogenised milk and another pasteurises a limited quantity of Channel Islands Milk.

The dairies concerned were regularly inspected by the County Health Inspector and samples of treated milk were taken. Washed bottles were also taken from time to time for bacteriological examination.

Number of inspections made	..	..	162
Number of samples taken at dairies	..	..	216

All the samples taken complied with the Methylene Blue Keeping Quality Test and the Phosphatase Test for efficiency of heat treatment. The pasteurisation plants were maintained in a satisfactory condition, such minor defects as were brought to the notice of the dairy managers being dealt with at once. One of the

dairies did have difficulty during the warm weather in complying with the regulation regarding cooling of the treated milk to below 50°F. This was due to low water pressure in the mains and certain remedial measures were eventually taken which completely cured the trouble. Of 102 washed bottles examined from the plants, only 3 failed to reach the standard of bacteriological cleanliness recommended by the Public Health Laboratory Service. This is of course purely an advisory standard and not one which can be enforced by law. It must unfortunately be recorded that a district council in the county found it necessary to institute proceedings against one of the pasteurising dairies in respect of milk supplied in a bottle not in a thorough state of cleanliness, and it has to be acknowledged that this prosecution was not lightly undertaken, as previous instances of this had been brought to the notice of the district public health inspector. The firm was fined £50 and costs. Two months later a further prosecution was taken against the same firm for broken glass in a bottle of milk which resulted in a similar penalty. Following this second incident, the County Health Inspector, on behalf of the licensing authority and in conjunction with the management, made a detailed investigation of the bottling plant and methods at this dairy. No drastic improvements could be suggested but since then no further trouble has arisen from this source.

Attention continued to be given to the condition of churns used by the pasteurising dairies for farm milk collection, and these were generally satisfactory. One of the dairies now receives a proportion of its farm milk by bulk collection tanker, and did in fact increase the amount so handled during the year. There are many hygienic advantages in this system.

STERILISING PLANTS

The two plants licensed for milk sterilisation continued in operation during the year and gave satisfactory results. One of these consists of the conventional oven batch treatment, the other being an ultra-high-temperature plant working in conjunction with a continuous in-bottle steriliser. Fifty three visits of inspection were made to the premises and 52 samples taken at the dairies all satisfied the turbidity test. In view of the limited value of this statutory test, occasional samples were also submitted for plate count and all showed that a good standard was being maintained.

SPECIFIED AREA

The County Council as food and drugs authority are responsible for enforcement of the specified area scheme, which forbids the sale of milk otherwise than under one of the special designations, i.e. "Tuberculin Tested" (now superseded by "Untreated"),

“ Pasteurised ” or “ Sterilised.” No serious irregularities were discovered during the year, and minor technical offences in respect of bottle caps or cartons were satisfactorily dealt with.

Exception is made as a last resort for the issue by the Ministry of a “ consent ” to a retailer to dispense with the requirements of the Order where there is no possibility either of the immediate grant of a producer’s licence or of an alternative supply of milk, and at the beginning of the year 4 such “ consents ” were in operation. The amount of milk represented by these was very small.

Milk in Schools Scheme

There was little change to report in the arrangements for supply of school milk during the year, as the contracts which are normally placed for a 3-year period were renewed in 1962.

The following details show the position as at 31st December, 1964.

<i>Grade of Milk</i>	<i>No. of Schools</i>	<i>Percentage Schools</i>	<i>Percentage Pupils</i>
Pasteurised	337	89.1	98.3
Tuberculin Tested (Untreated as from 1/10/64)	34	9.0	1.6
No Fresh Milk	7	1.9	0.1
	378	100.0	100.0

For those rural schools for which no tenders are ever received the supply is maintained by arrangement with an approved local retailer or farmer, and in some cases the requirement as to supply in $\frac{1}{2}$ rd pint bottles has to be waived in order to obtain milk at all. Even so, there remained during the year 7 schools for which no supply of fresh milk could be obtained. These made use of either reconstituted dried milk or flavoured milk tablets. All sources of supply were subject to prior approval by the department and regular samples from all sources were taken for examination, particular attention being paid to those schools receiving raw milk, in which cases routine biological testing for both tubercle and brucella infection was also carried out. The accompanying Table shows the results obtained during 1964.

	<i>Passed</i>	<i>Failed</i>	<i>Void</i>	<i>Total</i>
<i>Tuberculin Tested (to 30/8/64)</i>				
Methylene Blue Test	4	—	—	4
Clot-On-Boiling Test	36	—	—	36
<i>Untreated (from 1/10/64)</i>				
Methylene Blue Test	14	—	—	14
<i>Pasteurised</i>				
Methylene Blue Test	162	4	6	172
Phosphatase Test	171	1	—	172

In two cases a positive result was obtained for brucella infection. In one of these the milk actually originated outside the county, but in both instances it was possible with some difficulty to obtain a replacement supply of pasteurised milk on a temporary basis pending the investigation of the herd. The suppliers have since been persuaded to make these arrangements permanent.

The proportion of children availing themselves of the service under the scheme on a selected day in October was 86.8%.

ICE CREAM

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations 1959

The number of samples of ice cream submitted by district councils for examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service during the year was 278, a slight improvement over the 251 reported in 1963. Details will be found in Table 29. The figures show that a very satisfactory standard was being maintained. For the Methylene Blue Grading Test the Ministry suggest that taken over a period, 50% should reach Grade I and 80% Grades I and II combined. The actual figures for the county for 1964 were 86.3% and 92% respectively. The most unsatisfactory samples, those in Grade IV, represented only 4% of the total. In addition, seven samples of Ice Lollies were submitted for examination by the Presumptive Coliform test, similar to that applied to drinking water, and all were highly satisfactory. Twelve districts submitted no samples during the year.

LIQUID EGG

Liquid Egg Pasteurisation Regulations 1963

The above Regulations which came into force on the 1st January, 1964, require the pasteurisation of liquid egg used in food preparation if not broken out on the food manufacturer's own premises. The efficiency of pasteurisation can be checked by the prescribed alpha-amylase test and this can be carried out by the Public Health Laboratory Service.

The Regulations are enforceable by district councils. During the year only one local authority submitted any samples, 16 in all, and these were reported satisfactory. It is not certain how far local authorities are yet alive to their powers and duties under these Regulations, which should effectively deal with one common cause of food poisoning.

SCHOOL SWIMMING POOLS

During the year the Education Committee embarked upon a programme for the provision of learner swimming pools to selected schools in the county. The department was represented during the planning stages of this project and gave advice on the maintenance of satisfactory water conditions and general hygiene of the pools. Seven pools were brought into use towards the end of the year and these were visited at intervals by the County Health Inspector for the purpose of checking the efficiency of the water treatment. Fourteen such visits were made, 8 samples of water were taken, all of which were reported as highly satisfactory, and tests made on the spot showed that the chlorination arrangements were working correctly.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

(Mr. C. L. Arlidge)

During the year ended 31st December, 1964, the County Sampling Officers procured a total of 2,967 samples under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, the Preservative Regulations and the Labelling of Food Order, 1953.

The articles may be summarised as follows :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>No. taken</i>
Baking Powder	7
B.P. Official Preparations and Household Medicaments	49
Bread	9
Butter and Margarine	37
Cake and Pudding Mixture	77
Canned Fruit and Vegetables	45
Cereals	11
Cheese and Cheese Spread	17
Chocolate Liqueurs	4
Christmas Puddings	7
Coffee, Coffee and Chicory Essence	16
Condiments, Sauces, Flavourings, Pickles, etc.	125
Condensed and Evaporated Milk	22
Cream	14
Custard Powder	6
Desiccated Coconut	2
Dried Fruit	28
Fish and Fish Cakes	27
Flour	2
Flour Confectionery	15
Fresh Fruit and Vegetables	15
Glace Cherries	8
Ground Almonds	9
Hot Milk	6
Ice Cream	34
Jam, Marmalade, Syrup, etc.	87
Juices	31
Lard, Cooking Fat, etc.	30
Marzipan	8
Meat Products (Open and Tinned)	101
Milk	1,757
Milk Powder	13
Mincemeat	13
Pastes (Meat and Fish)	17
Sausages	64
Soft Drinks	57
Soups	15

Spirits (Brandy, Gin, Rum and Whisky).	30
Sugar Confectionery	58
Sugar and Icing Sugar	8
Table Jellies	20
Tea	13
Vinegar	25
Wines	4
Miscellaneous (Unclassified samples) ..	24
	<hr/>
	2,967
	<hr/>

Adulterated or Unsatisfactory Samples

<i>Article</i>	<i>Analyst's Report.</i>	<i>Action taken.</i>
Pork Sausages ..	7.7% below the recommended figure for the meat content ..	Manufacturer warned to amend his recipe.
Venison Steak in Wine Sauce ..	The description is inappropriate as the sample also contained carrots, peas and other vegetables.	Description to be amended to "Venison Steak with Vegetables in Wine Sauce."
Meat and Vegetable Curry	8.6% below the recommended figure for the meat content ..	Subsequent samples found to be genuine.
Sweet Home-made Style Pickles ..	Ingredients not specified. ..	Old stock. Labels now amended.
Cubed Beef Steak..	Description incorrect as the sample contained 18% of gravy	Produce of Australia. Supplies now exhausted.
Casserole Beef Steak	14.6% below the recommended figure for the meat content.	Production now ceased.
Gingerbread Cake Mix	Declaration of ingredients unsatisfactory.	Labels now amended.
Chicken Capri ..	Contained only 28% of meat ..	Manufacturers have agreed to increase the meat content.
Blackcurrant Juice Cordial	Contained preservative in excess of statutory limit.. ..	Excess due to mistake in mixing. All stocks withdrawn. Further samples found to be satisfactory.
Canned Apples ..	Contained 30% extraneous water	Blue Cap Foods (Kent) Ltd. of Ditton, near Maidstone, Kent, were fined £10 0s. 0d. with £46 16s. 0d. costs
Boned Chicken in Sherry Sauce ..	Description incorrect as the meat content was only 39.4%	Meat content to be increased to 65%.
Pork Sausages ..	6.1% below the recommended figure of 65% for the meat content.	Deficiency due to insufficient mixing.
Pork Sausages ..	The fat exceeded 50% of the total meat content.	The attention of the manufacturer was drawn to this matter.
Blackcurrant Jam	Found to contain a small fragment of copper.. ..	The attention of the manufacturer was drawn to this matter.
Irish Stewed Steak	Contained 21% of inedible gristle and animal tissue ..	The attention of the importers was drawn to this matter.

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Analyst's Report.</i>	<i>Action taken.</i>
Plum Jam	1.9% deficient in soluble solids	A check on the method of production revealed that a faulty thermometer was probably responsible.
Strawberry Jam ..	9.4% deficient in soluble solids	Investigations have failed to reveal cause of deficiency. Further samples to be taken
Pork Sausages ..	Found to contain preservative the presence of which had not been declared	Failure to exhibit the necessary notice was due to ignorance on the part of the producer.
Table Jelly ..	Article not marked with list of the ingredients.. ..	The manufacturers had already taken steps to remedy this omission.
Tomato Ketchup ..	41% deficient in tomato solids	Manufacturers agreed to amend their recipe.
Bread Sauce ..	The ingredients listed included "Boost Glutamate." This is not a common or usual name	Manufacturers agreed to amend the label to read "Monosodium Glutamate."
Lemon Juice ..	Contained 970 ppm of Sulphur Dioxide	Manufacturers cautioned.
Sago Pudding ..	Ingredients listed in wrong order	Manufacturers admitted a mistake in dispensing the ingredients.
Milk Cookies ..	Contained skimmed milk solids	Manufacturers agreed to amend the name of the product to "Milk Cookies contain skim milk solids."
Hot Milk	Contained 4.7% extraneous water	T. & E. Di Mascio of 55 Victoria Terrace, Whitley Bay, were fined £4 with £1 14s. 6d. costs and £1 11s. 6d. advocates fee.
Pear Juice.. ..	Unsatisfactory label	Remaining stock withdrawn.
Hot Milk	Contained 16.4% extraneous water	A. & B. Pantrini of 56 Cragside, Whitley Bay, were fined £4 with £1 14s. 6d. costs and £1 11s. 6d. advocates fee.
Hot Milk	Contained 7.0% extraneous water	P. Ferguson of 8 Park Terrace, Whitley Bay was fined £2 with £1 14s. 6d. costs and £1 11s. 6d. advocates fee.
Hot Milk	Contained 9.4% extraneous water	P. Keen of 40 Esplanade, Whitley Bay, was fined £2 with £1 14s. 6d. costs and £1 11s. 6d. advocates fee.

<i>Article.</i>	<i>Analyst's Report.</i>	<i>Action taken.</i>
Cheesey Crisps ..	Incorrectly labelled, Contained only 3 parts in 100 by weight of cheese solids.. ..	Manufacturers have agreed to amend the wording on the wrappers.
Jam Sandwich Mix Jam included ..	A sample of cake mixture which had gone slightly rancid due to long storage.. ..	No further stock remaining when sample was taken.
Ice Cream	Deficient in milk solids to the extent of 7%	Firm now in liquidation.
Seville Orange Marmalade ..	Contained 63.4% soluble solids. The Standard requires 65%. ..	Producer warned to exercise greater care when weighing ingredients.
Apricot and Pine- apple Jam ..	Contained 30% of mixed fruit. The Standard requires 40% ..	Producer warned to exercise greater care when weighing ingredients.
Orange Nectar ..	Contained 34% of extraneous water	John Dorell & Co. Ltd. West Smithfield, London, were fined £10 with £13 5s. costs.
Gingerbread Cake Mix	Insufficient notice that one fresh egg had to be added ..	Manufacturers agreed to withdraw stocks and amend the label.
Margarine	Contained 1.9% of water in excess of permitted amount ..	Manufacturers withdrew existing stocks.
Apricot Juice (Sweetened) ..	Contained 40% of extraneous water	Robinski & Co. Ltd. of Harrington Road, London, S.W. 7, were fined £5 with £27 10s. 8d. costs.
Cheesey Crisps ..	Description inappropriate as the product contained only 5.1% of cheese.	Description to be amended.
Iodised Table Salt	Ingredients not specified on the label	Manufacturers agreed to amend the label.
Rhubarb & Ginger Jam	10.9% deficient in soluble solids	Producer cautioned.
Jellied Cranberry Sauce	Vitamins and minerals claimed to be present but amounts not specified.	Stocks withdrawn and labels amended.
Lollymaid	Ingredients not specified. ..	All stocks withdrawn.
Milk	Contained 5.7% of added water	J. & M. E. Nelson of Milton Mains Farm, Brampton were fined £20 with £58 3s. costs.
Milk	Contained 9.9% of added water	
Milk	Contained 6.5% of added water	
Milk	Contained 9.0% of added water	
Milk	Contained 1.9% of added water	
Milk	Contained 9.9% of added water	
Milk	Contained 4.1% of added water	
Milk	Contained 8.2% of added water	
Milk	Contained 9.0% of added water	
Milk	Contained 12.8% of added water	
Milk	Contained 10.7% of added water	
Milk	Contained 7.8% of added water	
Milk	Contained 10% of added water	

The reduction in the number of samples taken during 1964 is attributable to reduced sampling of milk. This has been made

possible by the extremely low incidence of adulteration in recent years and the concentration of the retail trade into the hands of fewer but larger retailing units.

Routine checks on fruit and vegetables for residues of horticultural poisons were introduced several years ago. Once again the Analyst was able to report all the samples were free from contamination.

It is disturbing to find, twenty years after the introduction of the original Labelling of Food Order, that details of the ingredients of a number of pre-packed articles of food are still being incorrectly specified.

The firms responsible for the marketing of articles of food of which complaint is made regarding the description or the labelling, be they the manufacturers or the importers, invariably expect to be allowed to continue the distribution of the incorrectly marked goods until existing stocks are exhausted, on giving an undertaking that the matter will be put right when the cartons are re-printed. It would appear that they wish to avoid the expense of recalling stocks from the various stages of distribution.

As no one has the power to authorise the sale of goods which do not comply with the Food and Drugs Act, firms are being advised that they allow such goods to remain on sale at their peril. It is to be hoped that this course of action will result in greater consideration being given to the labelling of goods before they are placed on the market.

TABLES
of
STATISTICS
1964

TABLE I.

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.

POPULATION—YEAR 1964.

BOROUGHs :

Berwick-upon-Tweed	..	..	..	..	..	11,840
Blyth	..	..	..	..	..	36,320
Morpeth	..	..	..	..	..	13,630
Wallsend	..	..	..	..	..	49,320
Whitley Bay	..	..	..	..	..	38,140
						<hr/> 149,250

URBAN DISTRICTS :

Alnwick	..	..	..	..	..	7,630
Amble	..	..	..	..	..	5,010
Ashington	..	..	..	..	..	26,600
Bedlingtonshire	..	..	..	..	..	30,670
Gosforth	..	..	..	..	..	27,410
Hexham	..	..	..	..	..	9,690
Longbenton	..	..	..	..	..	47,770
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	..	..	..	..	..	9,940
Newburn	..	..	..	..	..	30,730
Prudhoe	..	..	..	..	..	10,470
Seaton Valley	..	..	..	..	..	26,280
						<hr/> 232,200

RURAL DISTRICTS :

Alnwick	..	..	..	..	..	12,350
Belford	..	..	..	..	..	4,780
Bellingham	..	..	..	..	..	5,250
Castle Ward	..	..	..	..	..	29,310
Glendale	..	..	..	..	..	6,890
Haltwhistle	..	..	..	..	..	6,860
Hexham	..	..	..	..	..	20,460
Morpeth	17,840
Norham and Islandshires	3,880
Rothbury	5,370
						<hr/> 112,990

TOTALS	<hr/> 494,440
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TABLE 2.
POPULATION—DISTRIBUTION FOR PURPOSES OF
AREA ADMINISTRATION.

AREA.			POPULATION.
North No. 1	..	..	27,390
North No. 2	..	..	30,360
Central	..	..	68,010
East..	..	..	66,990
South	..	..	100,652
South-East..	..	..	112,190
West	..	..	39,528
Wallsend	..	..	49,320
TOTAL	..	..	494,440

TABLE 3.
VITAL AND MORTALITY STATISTICS.

YEAR.			Birth rate per 1,000 living.	General death rate per 1,000 living.	Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births.	Death Rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis per 1,000 living.	Death Rate from Cancer (excluding Leukaemia Aleukaemia) per 1,000 living.
1940	..	..	15.00	12.44	59.00	0.55	1.58
1941	..	..	15.07	12.84	74.00	0.51	1.61
1942	..	..	16.39	11.59	54.00	0.39	1.59
1943	..	..	17.61	12.50	56.00	0.51	1.72
1944	..	..	19.87	12.16	48.00	0.50	1.86
1945	..	..	17.58	12.24	50.00	0.47	1.84
1946	..	..	19.74	11.98	48.00	0.49	1.73
1947	..	..	20.66	12.14	43.00	0.44	1.77
1948	..	..	18.04	11.13	40.00	0.43	1.74
1949	..	..	17.52	11.92	36.00	0.37	1.82
1950	..	..	16.69	12.24	36.60	0.28	1.75
1951	..	..	16.46	12.58	32.49	0.24	1.82
1952	..	..	16.08	11.25	29.37	0.17	1.92
1953	..	..	16.90	11.78	28.46	0.16	1.89
1954	..	..	16.26	12.23	27.03	0.15	1.95
1955	..	..	16.34	12.06	26.75	0.15	1.92
1956	..	..	16.51	11.87	25.80	0.11	1.90
1957	..	..	16.68	11.49	23.51	0.06	1.87
1958	..	..	17.08	12.05	24.03	0.06	2.03
1959	..	..	17.23	11.56	23.58	0.04	1.90
1960	..	..	16.66	11.80	20.28	0.05	1.95
1961	..	..	16.75	11.97	19.75	0.06	1.93
1962	..	..	17.20	12.23	23.28	0.05	2.08
1963	..	..	17.13	12.52	20.79	0.05	1.99
1964	..	..	16.80	11.76	20.11	0.03	2.10

TABLE 4.
GENERAL STATISTICS.

	NUMBERS			RATES		
	Boro's and Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Total for County.	Boro's and Urban Districts.	Rural Districts.	Total for County.
Population	381,450	112,990	494,440			
Births (Live)	6,560	1,746	8,306	17.20	15.45	16.80
Legitimate	6,302	1,687	7,989	16.52	14.93	16.16
Illegitimate.. ..	258	59	317	0.68	0.52	0.64
				(per 1,000 Population)		
Births (Still)	112	23	135	16.79	13.00	15.99
Legitimate	101	21	122	15.77	12.30	15.04
Illegitimate.. ..	11	2	13	40.89	32.79	39.39
				(per 1,000 Registered Births)		
Births (Live and Still)	6,672	1,769	8,441	17.49	15.66	17.07
Legitimate	6,403	1,708	8,111	16.79	15.12	16.40
Illegitimate.. ..	269	61	330	0.70	0.54	0.67
				(per 1,000 population)		
Deaths (Total)	4,291	1,525	5,816	11.25	13.50	11.76
				(per 1,000 population)		
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of Age	139	28	167	21.19	16.04	20.11
Legitimate	130	26	156	20.63	15.41	19.53
Illegitimate.. ..	9	2	11	34.88	33.90	34.70
				(per 1,000 Live Births)		
Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of Age	104	20	124	15.85	11.45	14.93
Legitimate	97	18	115	15.39	10.67	14.39
Illegitimate.. ..	7	2	9	27.13	33.90	28.39
				(per 1,000 Live Births)		
Deaths of Infants under 1 week of Age	87	19	106	13.26	10.88	12.76
Legitimate	80	17	97	12.69	10.08	12.14
Illegitimate.. ..	7	2	9	27.13	33.90	28.39
				(per 1,000 Live Births)		
Maternal Deaths	1	—	1	0.15	—	0.12
				(per 1,000 Births, Live and Still)		

				Births	Deaths
Comparability Factors .. ..	..	..	..	1.01	1.07
(Administrative County)					
Rates per 1,000 Population after adjustment .. ..	..	..	..	16.96	12.58

TABLE 5.
BIRTHS (LIVE AND STILL).

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	LIVE.					STILL.					Total Births— Live and Still.
	Leg.		Illeg.		Total	Leg.		Illeg.		Total	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.		
Boroughs :											
Berwick	120	119	9	4	252	1	2	—	—	3	255
Blyth	300	310	12	11	633	5	9	—	1	15	648
Morpeth	130	109	2	1	242	6	2	—	—	8	250
Wallsend	446	418	23	23	910	5	7	1	1	14	924
Whitley Bay	293	269	12	8	582	4	4	—	—	8	590
Urban Districts :											
Alnwick	59	63	5	—	127	—	2	—	—	2	129
Amble.. ..	63	63	2	1	129	—	3	—	—	3	132
Ashington	219	211	3	4	437	4	3	1	—	8	445
Bedlingtonshire ..	272	296	12	6	586	5	5	—	—	10	596
Gosforth	228	180	7	14	429	4	2	2	—	8	437
Hexham	80	53	4	3	140	—	—	—	—	—	140
Longbenton	375	378	12	17	782	3	6	—	1	10	792
Newbiggin-by-the-Sea	98	62	5	4	169	3	—	—	1	4	173
Newburn	284	272	15	10	581	5	2	1	1	9	590
Prudhoe	82	75	3	6	166	1	1	—	—	2	168
Seaton Valley.. ..	192	183	9	11	395	—	7	—	1	8	403
Rural Districts :											
Alnwick	91	89	1	2	183	2	—	2	—	4	187
Belford	23	30	—	1	54	—	1	—	—	1	55
Bellingham	45	36	3	5	89	1	1	—	—	2	91
Castle Ward	210	223	5	3	441	2	2	—	—	4	445
Glendale	42	44	4	1	91	—	1	—	—	1	92
Haltwhistle	53	35	2	4	94	1	1	—	—	2	96
Hexham	167	159	4	5	335	—	1	—	—	1	336
Morpeth	141	153	9	4	307	3	2	—	—	5	312
Norham and Islandshires	26	30	1	2	59	—	2	—	—	2	61
Rothbury	50	40	2	1	93	—	1	—	—	1	94
TOTALS	4089	3900	166	151	8306	55	67	7	6	135	8441

TABLE 6.
INFANT DEATHS.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Live Births.	FIRST YEAR.		FIRST MONTH.		FIRST WEEK.	
		Infant Deaths under 1 year	Infant Mortal- ity Rate per 1000 live births.	Infant Deaths under 4 weeks of age.	Death Rate per 1000 live births.	Infant Deaths under 1 week of age.	Death Rate per 1000 live births.
<i>Boroughs :</i>							
Berwick ..	252	4	15.87	4	15.87	4	15.87
Blyth ..	633	14	22.12	10	15.80	7	11.06
Morpeth ..	242	6	24.79	4	16.53	2	8.26
Wallsend ..	910	21	23.08	16	17.58	14	15.38
Whitley Bay ..	582	7	12.03	6	10.31	4	6.87
<i>Urban Districts :</i>							
Alnwick ..	127	2	15.75	—	—	—	—
Amble ..	129	4	31.01	3	23.26	3	23.26
Ashington ..	437	14	32.04	11	25.17	10	22.88
Bedlingtonshire	586	11	18.77	6	10.24	5	8.53
Gosforth ..	429	8	18.65	6	13.99	6	13.99
Hexham ..	140	3	21.43	3	21.43	3	21.43
Longbenton ..	782	16	20.46	14	17.90	9	11.51
Newbiggin-by- the-Sea ..	169	3	17.75	2	11.83	2	11.83
Newburn ..	581	13	22.38	9	15.49	8	13.77
Prudhoe ..	166	5	30.12	5	30.12	5	30.12
Seaton Valley ..	395	8	20.25	5	12.66	5	12.66
<i>Rural Districts :</i>							
Alnwick ..	183	2	10.93	2	10.93	2	10.93
Belford ..	54	1	18.52	1	18.52	1	18.52
Bellingham ..	89	1	11.24	1	11.24	1	11.24
Castle Ward ..	441	7	15.87	4	9.07	4	9.07
Glendale ..	91	6	65.93	5	54.95	5	54.95
Haltwhistle ..	94	4	42.55	3	31.91	3	31.91
Hexham ..	335	3	8.96	1	2.99	1	2.99
Morpeth ..	307	4	13.03	3	9.77	2	6.51
Norham and Islandshires ..	59	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rothbury ..	93	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	8,306	167	20.11	124	14.93	106	12.76

TABLE 7.

CLASSIFICATION OF DEATHS (Year 1964) ACCORDING TO DISEASE.

	BOROUGH AND URBAN DISTRICTS.			RURAL DISTRICTS.			TOTAL COUNTY.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
Tuberculosis (Respiratory) ..	11	2	13	3	—	3	14	2	16
Tuberculosis (Other) ..	1	1	2	1	—	1	2	1	3
Syphilitic Disease ..	3	2	5	—	—	—	3	2	5
Diphtheria ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections ..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other infective and Parasitic Diseases ..	5	—	5	2	1	3	7	1	8
Malignant Neoplasm—									
Stomach ..	69	48	117	18	15	33	87	63	150
Lung, Bronchus ..	182	29	211	42	6	48	224	35	259
Breast ..	1	72	73	—	17	17	1	89	90
Uterus ..	—	36	36	—	9	9	—	45	45
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ..	210	167	377	64	54	118	274	221	495
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia ..	6	9	15	5	2	7	11	11	22
Diabetes ..	13	20	33	5	8	13	18	28	46
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ..	235	312	547	145	182	327	380	494	874
Coronary Disease, Angina Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	569	380	949	197	112	309	766	492	1258
Other Heart Disease ..	24	38	62	12	14	26	36	52	88
Other Circulatory Disease ..	193	259	452	70	117	187	263	376	639
Influenza ..	77	93	170	36	31	67	113	124	237
Pneumonia ..	1	2	3	—	—	—	1	2	3
Bronchitis ..	84	111	195	28	29	57	112	140	252
Other Diseases of Respiratory system ..	190	63	253	47	11	58	237	74	311
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ..	25	17	42	5	6	11	30	23	53
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	9	13	22	5	3	8	14	16	30
Nephritis and Nephrosis ..	5	14	19	3	3	6	8	17	25
Hyperplasia of Prostate ..	13	8	21	2	8	10	15	16	31
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	22	—	22	6	—	6	28	—	28
Congenital Malformations ..	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1	1
Other defined and Ill- Defined Diseases ..	21	21	42	6	8	14	27	29	56
Motor Vehicle Accidents ..	184	186	370	38	60	98	222	246	468
All other accidents ..	44	15	59	24	4	28	68	19	87
Suicide ..	66	72	138	14	31	45	80	103	183
Homicide and Operations of War ..	20	16	36	11	4	15	31	20	51
TOTALS ..	2283	2008	4291	789	736	1525	3072	2744	5816

TABLE 8.
DEATHS FROM CANCER.

COUNTY DISTRICTS	Population	Stomach	Lung Bronchus	Breast	Uterus	Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	TOTALS.		RATES PER 1,000 POPULATION	
								Excluding Leukaemia Aleukaemia	Including Leukaemia Aleukaemia	Excluding Leukaemia Aleukaemia	Including Leukaemia Aleukaemia
<i>Boroughs—</i>											
Berwick ..	11,840	2	5	4	—	17	—	28	28	2.36	2.36
Blyth ..	36,320	9	29	9	3	34	—	84	84	2.31	2.31
Morpeth ..	13,630	7	7	2	1	8	1	25	26	1.83	1.91
Wallsend ..	49,320	16	44	6	4	45	4	115	119	2.33	2.41
Whitley Bay ..	38,140	7	15	10	6	52	2	90	92	2.36	2.41
<i>Urban Districts :</i>											
Alnwick ..	7,630	1	4	3	2	13	1	23	24	3.01	3.15
Amble ..	5,010	3	3	2	—	4	—	12	12	2.40	2.40
Ashington ..	26,600	16	7	5	3	25	—	56	56	2.11	2.11
Bedlingtonshire	30,670	12	17	4	2	23	—	58	58	1.89	1.89
Gosforth ..	27,410	6	14	4	4	41	2	69	71	2.52	2.59
Hexham ..	9,690	3	9	2	2	12	—	28	28	2.89	2.89
Longbenton ..	47,770	10	24	7	7	35	—	83	83	1.74	1.74
Newbiggin-by- the-Sea ..	9,940	4	5	1	—	4	—	14	14	1.41	1.41
Newburn ..	30,730	9	11	9	—	17	2	46	48	1.50	1.56
Prudhoe ..	10,470	5	3	2	2	14	1	26	27	2.48	2.58
Seaton Valley..	26,280	7	14	3	—	33	2	57	59	2.17	2.25
<i>Rural Districts :</i>											
Alnwick ..	12,350	4	3	—	1	16	2	24	26	1.94	2.11
Belford ..	4,780	2	—	2	1	7	—	12	12	2.51	2.51
Bellingham ..	5,250	2	1	1	—	4	—	8	8	1.52	1.52
Castle Ward ..	29,310	8	16	2	2	28	1	56	57	1.91	1.94
Glendale ..	6,890	3	1	2	—	6	1	12	13	1.74	1.89
Haltwhistle ..	6,860	3	2	1	1	4	—	11	11	1.60	1.60
Hexham ..	20,460	5	14	7	1	27	2	54	56	2.64	2.74
Morpeth ..	17,840	2	9	2	2	16	—	31	31	1.74	1.74
Norham and Islandshires	3,880	1	—	—	—	3	—	4	4	1.03	1.03
Rothbury ..	5,370	3	2	—	1	7	1	13	14	2.42	2.61
TOTALS ..	494,440	150	259	90	45	495	22	1039	1061	2.10	2.15

TABLE 9.
DEATH RATES AND DEATHS FROM CANCER
(excluding Leukaemia and Aleukaemia)
YEARS 1940 to 1964.

YEAR.	Population.	Number of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 Population.
1940	411,400	648	1.58
1941	407,120	656	1.61
1942	398,300	635	1.59
1943	397,740	686	1.72
1944	390,320	725	1.86
1945	392,510	725	1.84
1946	412,080	712	1.73
1947	417,510	740	1.77
1948	431,850	750	1.74
1949	436,370	796	1.82
1950	438,310	768	1.75
1951	437,600	797	1.82
1952	438,300	843	1.92
1953	440,600	836	1.89
1954	445,900	871	1.95
1955	453,000	870	1.92
1956	459,800	874	1.90
1957	463,900	866	1.87
1958	470,300	954	2.03
1959	475,000	904	1.90
1960	482,480	944	1.95
1961	480,530	929	1.93
1962	487,170	1,014	2.08
1963	491,200	977	1.99
1964	494,440	1039	2.10

TABLE 10.
TUBERCULOSIS.
STATISTICS—YEARS 1940 to 1964.

YEAR.	NOTIFICATIONS.			DEATHS.			DEATH RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.		
	Respira- tory.	Other Forms	All Forms	Respira- tory.	Other Forms	All Forms	Respira- tory.	Other Forms	All Forms
1940	343	111	454	226	58	284	0.55	0.14	0.69
1941	346	116	462	208	51	259	0.51	0.13	0.63
1942	298	116	414	156	36	192	0.39	0.09	0.48
1943	458	125	583	202	50	252	0.51	0.13	0.64
1944	506	134	640	195	43	238	0.50	0.11	0.61
1945	608	127	735	186	47	233	0.47	0.12	0.59
1946	454	116	570	200	42	242	0.49	0.10	0.59
1947	439	125	564	186	39	225	0.44	0.09	0.53
1948	442	137	579	187	32	219	0.43	0.07	0.50
1949	506	104	610	160	26	186	0.37	0.06	0.43
1950	519	116	635	124	26	150	0.28	0.06	0.34
1951	523	87	610	105	18	123	0.24	0.04	0.28
1952	519	91	610	77	15	92	0.17	0.04	0.21
1953	480	111	591	71	12	83	0.16	0.03	0.19
1954	556	101	657	66	7	73	0.15	0.01	0.16
1955	564	79	643	67	8	75	0.15	0.02	0.17
1956	399	68	467	50	5	55	0.11	0.01	0.12
1957	356	69	425	26	7	33	0.06	0.01	0.07
1958	340	57	397	28	4	32	0.06	0.01	0.07
1959	309	35	344	20	4	24	0.04	0.01	0.05
1960	330	37	367	25	1	26	0.05	0.002	0.05
1961	284	49	333	27	4	31	0.06	0.008	0.06
1962	246	34	280	23	3	26	0.05	0.006	0.06
1963	224	36	260	24	5	29	0.05	0.01	0.06
1964	181	21	202	16	3	19	0.03	0.006	0.04

TABLE 11.
NOTIFICATIONS AND MORTALITY AT SPECIFIED AGE PERIODS
DURING THE YEAR 1964.

AGE PERIODS.				* NEW CASES.						DEATHS.					
				Respiratory.			Non- Respiratory.			Respiratory.			Non- Respiratory.		
				M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
0—	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—	..	..	..	2	2	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—	..	..	..	6	5	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—	..	..	..	38	50	88	6	6	12	—	2	2	—	—	—
45—	..	..	..	45	13	58	4	2	6	8	—	8	1	—	1
65 and upwards..	..	..	..	12	8	20	1	2	3	6	—	6	1	1	2
Totals	..	..	..	103	78	181	11	10	21	14	2	16	2	1	3

* Includes new cases coming to the knowledge of the County Medical Officer other than by formal notification.

TABLE 12.
MASS MINIATURE RADIOGRAPHY.

AREA.	Number of X-ray Films.	Number referred to Chest Clinic.	New Cases of Tuberculosis notified.	% Cases of Tuberculosis
UNIT 1A				
Industrial firms ..	8,410	50	6	0.07
General Public				
Cramlington ..	2,180	63	3	0.14
High Pit ..				
Longbenton ..				
Morpeth ..				
Whitley Bay ..				
UNIT 1B.				
Wallsend ..	2,408	15	3	0.12
UNIT 1B (Caravan)				
Ashington ..	248	14	—	—
Backworth ..	90	3	2	2.22
Bedlington ..	298	14	2	0.67
Blyth ..	696	8	1	0.14
Cramlington ..	233	4	—	—
Hexham ..	27	2	—	—
Morpeth ..	150	5	—	—
Otterburn ..	155	1	—	—
Ponteland ..	103	3	—	—
Wallsend ..	157	2	1	0.64
Willington Quay ..	22	—	—	—
Psychiatric Hospitals..	1,014	19	1	0.09
Approved Schools ..	275	2	—	—
TOTALS ..	16,466	205	19	0.12

TABLE 13.

CARE AND AFTER-CARE.**WORK OF THE SOCIAL WORKER**

Home Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	724
Sanatorium Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	517
Seen at Chest Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	679
Details of help given :—								
After-Care Sub-Committees :	Extra nourishment							175
	Bedding and clothing ..							16
	Travelling expenses							63
	Other help							49
National Assistance Board :	Extra nourishment							41
	Bedding and clothing ..							16
	Travelling expenses							6
	Allowances							126
	Other help							9
Resettlement :—								
To Ministry of Labour D.R.O.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	40
To Government Training Centre or Industrial Rehabilitation Unit	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Attended Resettlement Clinics	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Commenced work	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22

Help for cases was also obtained from other sources including Nursing Care Committees ; Home Help ; Children and Handicapped Services ; Housing Departments ; Mental Welfare and Probation Officers ; Marie Curie Memorial Foundation ; Dr. Barnardo's ; National Society for Cancer Relief ; Chest and Heart Association ; local and voluntary services and other societies.

TABLE 14.

CHIROPODY

SERVICE	Number of Patients Treated	NUMBER OF TREATMENTS										TOTAL
		DOMICILIARY						CLINICS				
		Expectant Mothers	Elderly		Handi-capped		Expectant Mothers	Elderly		Handi-capped		
			M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
County Chiropodists Voluntary Services	2735	2	1164	3977	404	966	20	860	3373	58	99	10923
	3330	—	620	2475	—	—	—	1962	8295	—	—	13352
Totals : 1964	6065	2	1784	6452	404	966	20	2822	11668	58	99	24275
Totals : 1963	5089	5	1123	4383	198	576	11	2267	9371	48	87	18069

TABLE 15.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DENTAL SERVICE.

EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS—Number provided with
Dental Care.

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Number examined.. ..	1,358	1,597	1,221	1,235	1,129
Treated	950	1,257	854	923	836
Attendances	5,204	5,608	4,487	4,403	3,823
Made dentally fit	940	1,045	689	787	715

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN—Number provided with Dental Care

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Number examined.. ..	1,848	2,421	2,489	2,399	3,252
Treated	1,288	1,636	1,677	1,739	2,208
Attendances	2,076	2,370	2,660	3,021	3,163
Made dentally fit	917	1,250	1,066	1,256	1,492

EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS—Forms of treatment provided.

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Extractions.. ..	3,499	3,644	2,780	1,943	1,565
Anaesthetics—Local	972	974	738	923	942
General	320	306	247	149	145
Fillings	1,730	1,558	1,690	1,962	2,038
Scalings or scaling and gum treatment	274	405	227	435	420
Silver nitrate treatment	26	9	13	10	16
Dressings	185	242	147	441	239
Radiographs	194	197	158	158	135
Dentures—Complete	753	655	515	475	379
—Partial.. ..	248	251	202	191	184
—Repairs	43	36	29	28	15

PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN—Forms of treatment provided

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Extractions.. ..	1,886	2,267	2,408	2,545	2,378
Anaesthetics—Local	75	142	50	90	80
—General	579	708	709	726	697
Fillings	836	878	942	1,144	1,410
Scaling or scaling and gum treatment	6	24	31	62	116
Silver nitrate treatment	544	573	594	701	435
Dressings	62	81	59	58	94
Radiographs	2	6	6	9	11
Dentures—Complete	1	5	2	2	2
—Partial.. ..	3	3	2	Nil.	2
—Repairs	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

TABLE 16.

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING SERVICE.

MIDWIFERY

Year	Nurses and Midwives Employed	Private Midwives In County	Attended By Midwives	Attended By Private Midwives	Number of Patients Delivered In Hospitals and Other Institutions But Discharged and Attended by Midwives Before Tenth Day	Number of Patients Delivered in Hospitals and Other Institutions But Discharged and Attended by Private Midwives Before Tenth Day	Puerperal Pyrexia
1960	121	13	2,095	367	4,404*	12*	6
1961	120	12	1,864	213	4,098	13	3
1962	118	13	1,870	159	4,291	10	3
1963	116	11	1,678	140	4,574	15	2
1964	120	12	1,469	112	5,130	14	3

* Before 14th Day.

GENERAL NURSING

Year	New Cases	Total Visits	Number of Children Under 5 Years	Number of Old Persons Over 65 Years	Advisory Visits To The Aged
1960	8,029	236,982	471	3,373	8,653
1961	8,074	250,156	445	3,551	9,198
1962	7,704	255,164	425	3,433	9,587
1963	9,787	255,100	500	5,188	10,114
1964	10,201	265,526	546	4,880	10,685

TABLE I7.
DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Sub-Committee Area.	A. Number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during 1964.										B. Number of children who received a secondary (reinforcing) injection (i.e. subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during 1964.									
	Children Born in Years :—																			
	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1955-59	1950-54	Total	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1955-59	1950-54	Total				
North No. 1	155	166	14	9	1	7	—	352	—	7	115	85	67	241	9	524				
North No. 2	181	232	20	6	5	6	3	453	—	21	300	160	44	345	17	887				
Central	392	510	51	15	4	62	6	1040	—	212	542	75	176	780	397	2182				
East...	400	512	39	20	15	271	45	1302	—	141	327	29	153	1197	433	2280				
South	554	872	96	18	13	27	7	1587	—	24	772	359	372	935	93	2555				
South East...	695	452	178	59	38	85	22	1529	—	97	789	199	397	1020	53	2555				
West	188	285	34	11	7	18	2	545	—	9	320	74	87	373	3	866				
Wallsend	290	307	21	8	3	278	1	908	—	56	267	53	8	751	749	1884				
1964 Totals	2855	3336	453	146	86	754	86	7716	—	567	3432	1034	1304	5642	1754	13733				
Corresponding Totals for 1963	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1954-58	1949-53	Total	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1954-58	1949-53	Total				
	3478	3331	529	180	294	1225	280	9317	4	311	2386	709	1284	3842	1804	10340				

TABLE 18.

WHOOPING COUGH VACCINATION.

Sub Committee Area.	Triple Antigen								Diphtheria and Whooping Cough								Whooping Cough only								Total.							
	Children Born in Years :—																															
	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1955-59	1950-54	Total	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1954-58	1949-53	Total	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1955-59	1950-54	Total	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1955-59	1950-54	Total
North No. 1 ...	155	166	12	8	1	5	—	347	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	155	166	12	8	1	5	—	—	155	166	12	8	1	5	—	347
North No. 2 ...	179	232	20	6	5	6	3	451	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	179	232	20	6	5	6	3	—	179	232	20	6	5	6	3	451
Central ...	378	508	49	10	2	3	—	950	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	378	508	49	10	2	3	—	—	378	508	49	10	2	3	—	950
East ...	399	506	38	20	6	18	2	989	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	399	506	38	20	6	18	2	—	399	506	38	20	6	18	2	989
South ...	545	863	86	18	10	15	1	1538	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	545	863	86	18	10	16	1	—	545	863	86	18	10	16	1	1539
South East ...	689	447	178	59	38	85	22	1518	2	5	—	—	—	—	—	7	691	452	178	59	38	85	22	—	691	452	178	59	38	85	22	1525
West ...	188	285	30	10	5	13	2	533	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	188	285	30	11	5	13	2	—	188	285	30	11	5	13	2	534
Wallsend ...	290	306	21	8	3	1	—	629	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	290	306	21	8	3	1	—	—	290	306	21	8	3	1	—	629
1964 Totals ...	2823	3313	434	139	70	146	30	6955	2	5	—	1	—	1	—	9	2825	3318	434	140	70	147	30	—	2825	3318	434	140	70	147	30	6964
Corresponding Totals for 1963...	3460	3293	522	170	272	977	119	8813	1	16	—	—	—	—	—	18	3461	3310	522	170	272	979	119	—	3461	3310	522	170	272	979	119	8833

TABLE 19.
AMBULANCE SERVICE.

AMBULANCES AND SITTING CASE CARS.

AREA.	FIRST QUARTER.			SECOND QUARTER.			THIRD QUARTER.			FOURTH QUARTER.			TOTAL.		
	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.	J.	P.	M.
North No. 1 ...	745	2,715	43,183	695	2,660	44,412	740	2,607	45,924	685	2,918	41,518	2,866	10,900	175,037
North No. 2 ...	777	3,185	43,229	798	3,292	42,068	780	2,614	39,730	733	2,731	37,804	3,088	11,822	162,831
Central ...	2,659	9,775	75,620	2,661	10,786	77,609	2,629	9,818	76,746	2,644	10,020	76,631	10,593	40,399	306,606
East ...	1,822	7,364	51,913	1,792	7,321	49,983	1,837	6,927	48,577	1,839	7,550	50,761	7,290	29,162	201,234
South East ...	1,751	6,255	44,928	1,840	7,298	48,636	1,914	6,653	47,085	1,811	6,669	44,549	7,316	26,875	185,198
South ...	2,823	12,548	84,304	2,935	12,503	89,387	2,960	12,116	86,071	2,961	12,853	86,742	11,679	50,020	346,504
Wallsend ...	1,543	4,906	21,922	1,623	5,375	23,226	1,631	5,048	23,580	1,552	5,397	24,239	6,349	20,726	92,967
West ...	1,338	4,802	44,465	1,385	5,001	45,678	1,427	5,230	48,739	1,432	5,742	49,967	5,582	20,775	188,849
TOTAL ...	13,458	51,550	409,564	13,729	54,236	420,999	13,918	51,013	416,452	13,658	53,880	412,211	54,763	210,679	1,659,226

AMBULANCE CAR SERVICE

North No. 1 ...	379	1,521	22,151	395	1,468	22,758	383	1,371	22,201	411	1,571	22,568	1,568	5,931	89,678
North No. 2 ...	41	381	1,040	27	265	784	31	243	879	33	219	925	132	1,108	3,628
Central ...	194	868	9,605	215	835	11,145	186	773	9,260	160	666	7,870	755	3,142	37,880
West ...	579	3,360	33,998	628	3,492	37,141	574	3,269	33,200	649	3,540	36,460	2,430	13,661	140,799
South ...	146	1,246	6,233	136	1,046	4,779	92	947	3,228	126	1,183	3,883	500	4,422	18,123
TOTAL ...	1,339	7,376	73,027	1,401	7,106	76,607	1,266	6,603	68,768	1,379	7,179	71,706	5,385	28,264	290,108
Total Ambul- ance Service	14,797	58,926	482,591	15,130	61,342	497,606	15,184	57,616	485,220	15,037	61,059	483,917	60,148	238,943	1,949,334

J—Journeys. P—Patients. M—Mileage.

TABLE 20.
AMBULANCE SERVICE STATISTICS.

STATIONS.	VEHICLES	JOURNEYS	PATIENTS	MILEAGE
Alnwick	3	1,918	7,300	89,329
Ashington	5	6,197	21,766	131,289
Bedlington	5	3,587	14,896	110,554
Berwick	3	2,042	6,784	85,207
Blyth	4	3,703	14,266	90,680
Broomhill	3	1,426	7,113	78,481
Morpeth	4	2,970	11,520	96,836
Prudhoe	1	716	3,550	25,412
Seaton Delaval ..	4	2,727	10,762	81,093
Throckley	5	4,374	18,594	126,280
Wallsend	4	6,349	20,726	92,967
Whitley Bay	4	4,589	16,113	104,105
Wideopen	7	6,589	27,876	194,812
<i>Agency Service—</i>				
Smiths, Thropton	2	1,170	4,522	73,502
British Red Cross Society ..	9	4,369	18,621	206,936
St. John Ambulance Brigade ..	1	1,981	6,167	70,309
Henderson, Alston	1	56	103	1,434

DETAILS OF PERSONS CARRIED.

Year.	Accident and Emergency Stretcher Cases.	Accident and Emergency Other Cases	Treatment including Maternity Cases.	Others	Total Patients Carried.	Relatives Carried	Total No. of Persons Carried.
1961	5,227	6,134	181,323	2,778	195,462	62,987	258,449
1962	5,139	5,825	179,549	4,483	194,996	63,011	258,007
1963	5,536	5,777	190,566	4,110	205,989	64,656	270,645
1964	5,972	5,563	193,735	5,409	210,679	64,164	274,843

TABLE 21.
HOME HELP SERVICE.

Area.	Number of cases assisted.		Home Helps employed at 31st December.	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
North No. 1	—	126	—	41
North No. 2	1	230	—	65
East	1	639	2	97
Central	4	551	1	107
South	47	79	1	217
South-East	18	1,001	1	133
West	7	289	—	120
Wallsend	1	375	—	110
TOTALS	79	3,990	5	890

TYPES OF CASE ASSISTED.

	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Total for 1963
Confinement	65	117	182	205
Acute Illness	12	184	196	170
Old Age and Chronic illness	—	3,561	3,561	3,493
Blind	—	81	81	79
Tuberculosis	—	33	33	30
Problem cases including children in absence of mother ..	2	14	16	12
TOTALS	79	3,990	4,069	3,989

The number of Home Helps employed compared with last year was :

	Full-time	Part-time	Total
31st December, 1964	5	890	895
31st December, 1963	3	933	936

TABLE 22.
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE.

Number of mentally ill patients dealt with by Mental Welfare Officers under the Mental Health Act, 1959 :—

	Male	Female	Total
Admitted for Observation (Section 25)	28	56	84
Admitted for Treatment (Section 26)	20	26	46
Admitted for Observation in cases of Emergency (Section 29)	63	88	151
	111	170	281

SUMMARY OF VISITS MADE BY MENTAL WELFARE OFFICERS.

District.	Area (Acres).	Population (Estimated).	Subnormal and Severely Subnormal.	Mental Illness.	Social Welfare.	Total.
Alnwick	293,284	39,280	167	443	445	1,055
Ashington	83,910	116,040	420	762	722	1,904
Berwick	241,186	27,390	147	364	118	629
Blyth	13,001	123,780	310	601	1,024	1,935
Hexham	548,822	52,730	372	457	335	1,164
South North- umberland	96,002	135,220	837	1,032	670	2,539
	1,276,205	494,440	2,253	3,659	3,314	9,226

TABLE 23.
NUMBER OF PERSONS UNDER LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY CARE AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1964.

	Mentally Ill				Psychopath				Subnormal and Severely Subnormal				Totals				GRAND TOTAL
	Under Age 16		16 and Over		Under Age 16		16 and Over		Under Age 16		16 and Over		Under Age 16		16 and Over		
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	
(a) Total Number	—	—	75	75	—	—	5	—	111	97	248	239	111	97	328	314	850
(b) Attending Day or Residential Training Centres	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	82	61	65	69	82	61	65	69	277
(c) Awaiting training in Day or Residential centres...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3
(d) Receiving home visits and not included in (b) and (c) ...	—	—	75	75	—	—	5	—	26	36	183	170	26	36	263	245	570

TABLE 24

WELFARE OF BLIND AND OTHER HANDICAPPED PERSONS

BLIND WELFARE.

REGISTER OF BLIND PERSONS.

TOTAL — 31st December, 1963..						..	..	710
Names added to register :—								
New cases	..	..	..	..	..	..	82	
New cases transferred from register of Partially Sighted	..	..	..	..	..	..	24	
							—	106
Transfers In	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	
Recertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	
							—	127
								<u>837</u>
Names removed from register :—								
Deaths	..	..	..	..	..	..	92	
Decertified	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	
Transfers out	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	
							—	109
								<u>728</u>
Total — 31st December, 1964						..		728

REGISTER OF PARTIALLY SIGHTED—

Total — 31st December, 1963							269
Names added to register :—							
New cases .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	50	
Transferred from register of Blind .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1		
					—	51	
Transfers In .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	5	
						—	56
							<hr/> 325
Names removed from register :—							
Deaths .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	30	
Transfers to register of Blind .. .. .	..	..	..	..	25		
Transfers Out .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	4	
Decertified .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	7	
						—	66
Total — 31st December, 1964							<hr/> 259

HOME TEACHERS' VISITS

Social visits (blind)	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,367
Social visits (partially sighted)			..	..	..	..	1,143
To give lessons..	..	..	..	..	..	..	473
To investigate new cases		..	..	..	..	..	180
To accompany patients to hospital, etc.			..	..	..	..	44
Special visits ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,307
To homes and hospitals		..	..	..	..	..	539
Conveyance to clubs	..	..	..	..	..	..	475
							<hr/> 10,528

CHILDREN.

On 31st December, 1964, the children on the register were classified as follows :—

	Blind	Partially Sighted
Under 5—		
At home.. .. .	—	1
In hospital	1	—
5 — 15—		
Attending special schools	8	20
Attending other schools	—	7
Left school at 15	—	—
Ineducable	6	2
	<u>15</u>	<u>30</u>

REGISTER OF GENERALLY HANDICAPPED

Total — 31st December, 1963 ..	908
Names added to register :—	
New cases	177
Transfers In	2
	<u>179</u>
	1,087
Names removed from register :—	
Deaths	54
Left district and Miscellaneous removals from register	38
	<u>92</u>
Total — 31st December, 1964 ..	<u>995</u>

VISITS PAID

Social welfare to handicapped	5,270
Visits on behalf of handicapped	930
	<u>6,200</u>

REGISTER OF DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING

Total — 31st December, 1963 ..	300
Names added to register :—	
New cases	8
Transfers In	2
	<u>10</u>
	310
Names removed from register :—	
Deaths	5
Transfers Out	9
	<u>14</u>
Total — 31st December, 1964 ..	<u>296</u>

VISITS PAID BY STAFF OF NORTHUMBERLAND AND DURHAM MISSION

At home	706
In Hospitals	76
At work	70
On behalf of deaf.. .. .	244
	<u>1,096</u>

(In addition, home teachers in the North and West paid 88 visits to deaf persons).

TABLE 25.

GENERAL HANDICAPPED—CLASSIFICATIONS
(including Children under 16)

		Total on register 31st December	New cases registered during year
A/E	Amputation	81	13
F	Arthritis and rheumatism	116	29
G	Congenital deformities	78	8
H/L	Diseases of the digestive and genito-urinary systems ; of the heart or circulatory system ; of the respiratory system (other than tuberculosis) and of the skin :—		
	Asthma	14	1
	Bronchitis and bronchiectasis.. .. .	13	3
	Valvular disease of the heart, angina pectoris, cardiac degeneration, Myo- carditis, rheumatic heart, mitral stenosis	31	3
	Gastric and duodenal ulcers	1	—
	Miscellaneous	6	3
		— 65	
Q/T	Injuries of the head, face, neck, thorax, abdomen, pelvis or trunk injuries or diseases (other than tuberculosis) of the upper or lower limbs and of the spine :—		
	Paralysis due to injury or disease ;		
	Paraplegia	68	7
	Osteomyelitis	3	—
	Muscular atrophy, dystrophy	23	6
	Miscellaneous injuries	74	18
		— 168	
V	Organic nervous diseases :—		
	Disseminated Sclerosis.. .. .	107	21
	Epilepsy	59	5
	Lateral Sclerosis	—	—
	Parkinson's Disease	18	3
	Post Poliomyelitis	83	10
	Cerebral Palsy (spastic)	90	6
	Cerebral Thrombosis	20	8
	Hemiplegia	52	25
	Encephalitis Lethargica	4	1
	Miscellaneous	25	3
		— 458	
U/W	Neurosis, psychosis and other nervous and mental disorders (not included in V) ..	9	2
Y	Tuberculosis (non-respiratory)	7	—
Z	Miscellaneous.. .. .	13	2
		<u>995</u>	<u>177</u>

TABLE 26.
HOUSING.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	NEW HOUSES COMPLETED DURING 1964.				TOTAL 1963.
	Local Authority.	Other Housing Authority.	Private.	Total.	
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>					
Berwick	—	—	—	—	1
Blyth	68	—	50	118	88
Morpeth	—	—	81	81	89
Wallsend	109	—	—	109	86
Whitley Bay	—	—	149	149	254
<i>Urban Districts—</i>					
Alnwick	33	3	1	37	23
Amble	—	—	21	21	50
Ashington	133	—	3	136	48
Bedlingtonshire	68	—	189	257	349
Gosforth	24	—	51	75	39
Hexham	20	—	38	58	30
Longbenton	36	—	53	89	216
Newbiggin by the Sea	26	—	5	31	88
Newburn	125	—	321	446	370
Prudhoe	42	—	12	54	53
Seaton Valley	76	—	145	221	133
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total	760	3	1119	1882	1917
<i>Rural Districts—</i>					
Alnwick	6	4	14	24	17
Belford	—	—	20	20	8
Bellingham	8	2	—	10	9
Castle Ward	16	366	219	601	320
Glendale	20	—	7	27	8
Haltwhistle	—	—	1	1	16
Hexham	79	—	52	131	50
Morpeth	80	—	32	112	219
Norham and Islandshires	—	—	6	6	13
Rothbury	4	—	7	11	2
Rural Districts Total	213	372	358	943	662
TOTALS	973	375	1477	2825	2579

TABLE 27.
SLUM CLEARANCE.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Formal Action.		Discontinued Informally.	Total Discontinued.
	Demolished	Closed not Demolished.		
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>				
Berwick upon Tweed ..	21	1	22	44
Blyth	20	9	—	29
Morpeth	16	4	—	20
Wallsend	5	10	—	15
Whitley Bay	—	6	—	6
<i>Urban Districts—</i>				
Alnwick	15	2	—	17
Amble	2	8	6	16
Ashington	—	—	—	—
Bedlingtonshire	216	55	—	271
Gosforth	—	—	4	4
Hexham	—	—	2	2
Longbenton	88	4	—	92
Newbiggin by the Sea ..	20	4	1	25
Newburn	98	84	—	182
Prudhoe	—	43	2	45
Seaton Valley	107	—	—	107
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total	608	230	37	875
<i>Rural Districts—</i>				
Alnwick	2	—	—	2
Belford	—	2	1	3
Bellingham	—	6	—	6
Castle Ward	16	—	—	16
Glendale	—	20	—	20
Haltwhistle	—	—	—	—
Hexham	7	—	2	9
Morpeth	22	5	2	29
Norham and Islandshires ..	7	1	—	8
Rothbury	4	4	—	8
Rural Districts Total ..	58	38	5	101
TOTALS	666	268	42	976

TABLE 28.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—(I) Standard Grants.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Number of separate houses for which grants were made.	
	During 1964.	Total to Date.
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>		
Berwick upon Tweed	6	27
Blyth	19	30
Morpeth	19	55
Wallsend	132	266
Whitley Bay	1	23
<i>Urban Districts—</i>		
Alnwick	5	34
Amble	5	16
Ashington	25	63
Bedlingtonshire	26	46
Gosforth	21	82
Hexham	4	28
Longbenton	5	77
Newbiggin by the Sea	18	70
Newburn	24	151
Prudhoe	8	12
Seaton Valley	11	112
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total ..	329	1092
<i>Rural Districts—</i>		
Alnwick	23	123
Belford	9	30
Bellingham	7	19
Castle Ward	12	41
Glendale	—	139
Haltwhistle	11	71
Hexham	27	56
Morpeth	8	56
Norham and Islandshires	2	19
Rothbury	3	27
Rural Districts Total	102	581
TOTALS	431	1673

NUMBER OF HOUSES PROVIDED WITH

	Bath or Shower	Washhand Basin	Hot Water Supply	Water Closet	Food Store
1964	300	311	295	278	271
Total to Date.. .. .	1116	1279	1045	1139	908

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—(2) Discretionary Grants.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	Applications dealt with during 1964.			Total approved to date.
	Submitted to Local Authority.	Rejected.	Approved.	
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>				
Berwick	18	2	16	150
Blyth	16	—	16	294
Morpeth	4	—	4	151
Wallsend	53	2	59	391
Whitley Bay	4	2	2	29
<i>Urban Districts—</i>				
Alnwick	8	—	8	113
Amble	21	1	20	208
Ashington	265	—	265	1648
Bedlingtonshire	38	1	37	916
Gosforth	—	—	—	20
Hexham	16	1	15	163
Longbenton	25	—	25	223
Newbiggin by the Sea	11	—	11	170
Newburn	49	2	47	278
Prudhoe	4	—	4	142
Seaton Valley	24	—	24	151
Boroughs and Urban Districts Total	556	11	553	5063
<i>Rural Districts—</i>				
Alnwick	60	18	40	441
Belford	13	1	12	235
Bellingham	9	—	9	228
Castle Ward	26	—	26	452
Glendale	10	—	10	573
Haltwhistle	24	1	23	272
Hexham	76	—	76	1012
Morpeth	68	—	68	546
Norham and Islandshires	14	—	14	263
Rothbury	27	—	27	337
Rural Districts Total	327	20	305	4359
TOTALS	883	31	858	9422

TABLE 29.
ICE CREAM SAMPLES.

COUNTY DISTRICTS.	GRADES.				
	I.	II.	III.	IV.	Total.
<i>Municipal Boroughs—</i>					
Berwick	38	I	2	2	43
Blyth	14	I	2	—	17
Morpeth	—	—	—	—	—
Wallsend	4	I	—	I	6
Whitley Bay	37	4	3	5	49
<i>Urban Districts—</i>					
Alnwick	—	—	—	—	—
Amble	—	—	—	—	—
Ashington	25	5	I	—	31
Bedlingtonshire	43	2	I	—	46
Gosforth	10	I	—	—	11
Hexham	7	I	I	—	9
Longbenton	11	—	—	—	11
Newbiggin by the Sea	—	—	—	—	—
Newburn	13	—	I	2	16
Prudhoe	7	—	—	—	7
Seaton Valley	21	—	—	I	22
<i>Rural Districts—</i>					
Alnwick	—	—	—	—	—
Belford	—	—	—	—	—
Bellingham	—	—	—	—	—
Castle Ward	3	—	—	—	3
Glendale	—	—	—	—	—
Haltwhistle	—	—	—	—	—
Hexham	7	—	—	—	7
Morpeth	—	—	—	—	—
Norham and Islandshires	—	—	—	—	—
Rothbury	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	240	16	11	11	278
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL	86.3	5.7	4.0	4.0	—